

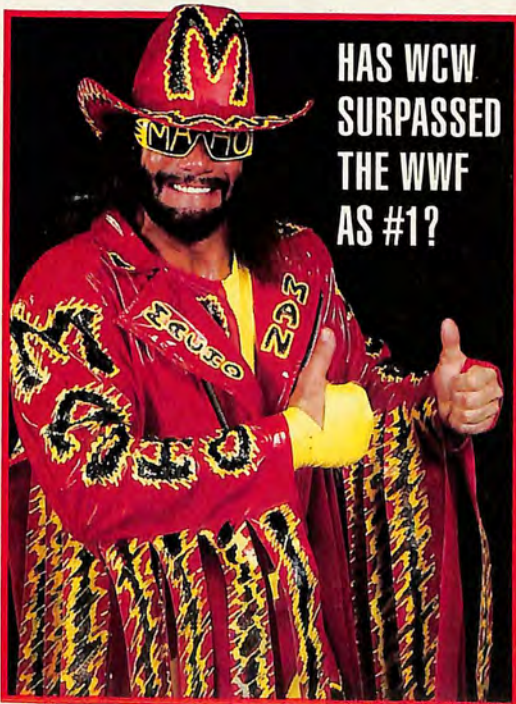
COLLECTOR'S EDITION! SPECIAL ISSUE!

# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

**Bonus  
Section!**

## THE 1995 PWI POLL

WRESTLING'S 50 HOTTEST QUESTIONS ANSWERED

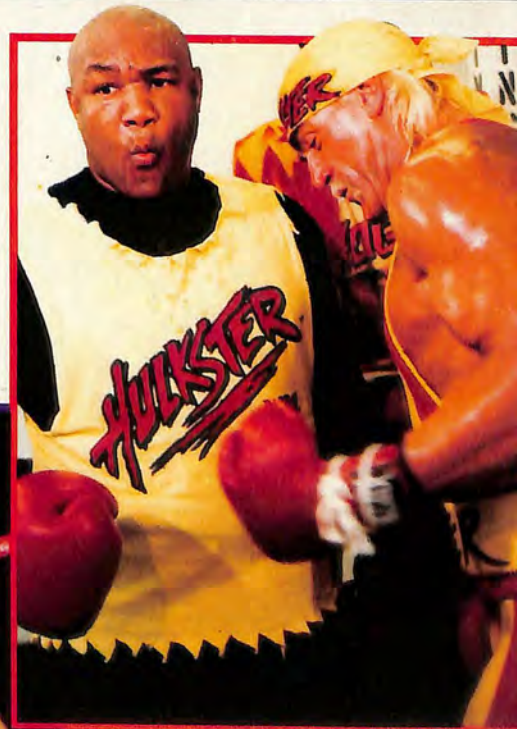


HAS WCW  
SURPASSED  
THE WWF  
AS #1?

WHO IS, POUND-FOR-POUND,  
THE BEST WRESTLER TODAY?

WHO IS WRESTLING'S  
SEXIEST WOMAN?

IS WRESTLING BETTER THAN  
IT WAS LAST YEAR?



WHO WOULD WIN A  
MATCH BETWEEN  
HULK HOGAN AND  
GEORGE FOREMAN?



WILL BRET  
AND OWEN  
REUNITE  
IN '95?

June 1995

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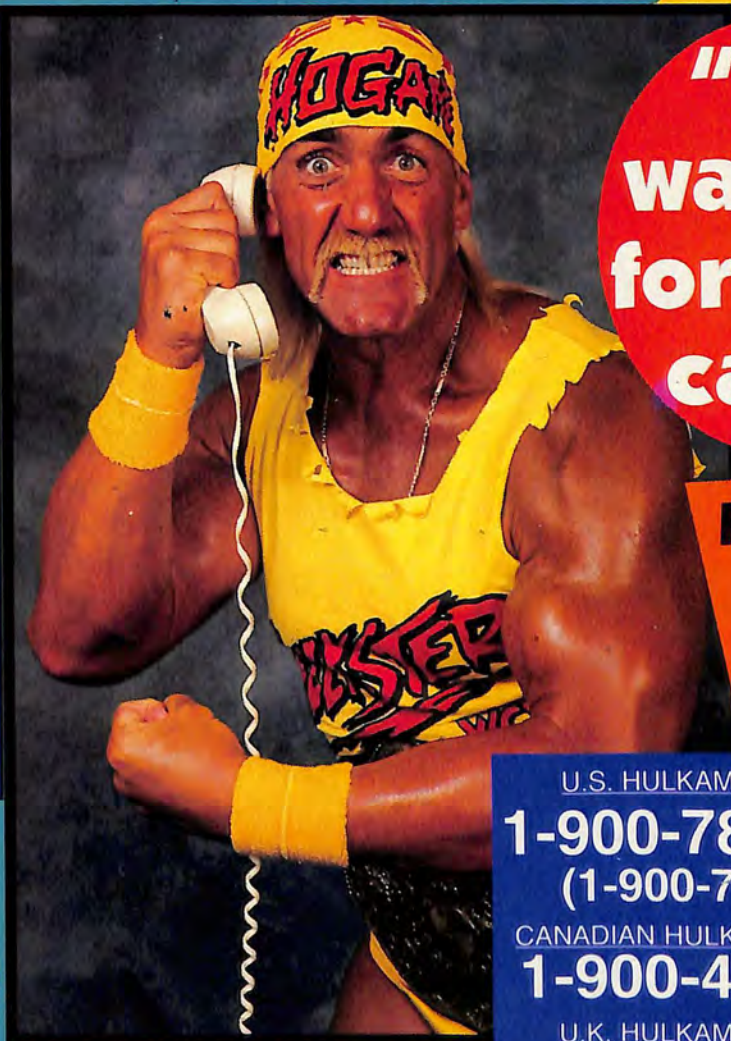
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COVER PHOTOS  
Randy Savage by Bill Apter  
Hulk Hogan and George Foreman by Marc Morrison  
Bret Hart-Owen Hart by Ted Field

CENTERFOLD  
The Undertaker by Bill Apter

Next issue on sale April 18, 1995

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED (ISSN: 1043-7576) is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Second-class postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. Single copy price \$3.50 (\$3.95 in Canada, £2.50 in U.K.). Subscription price \$30 in the U.S. and Canada, \$39.60 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (310) 572-7272. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 11 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010. U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

Printed in U.S.A.

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- 44 "SHUT UP, CORNETTE ... OR THIS COULD BE JUST THE BEGINNING!"**  
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"The Hitman" wanted a break from his feud with his brother Owen and figured he'd get it while making a guest appearance on a TV show. Guess who showed up!
- 55 HOW THE WWF FUMBLING THE ROYAL RUMBLE**  
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# between falls

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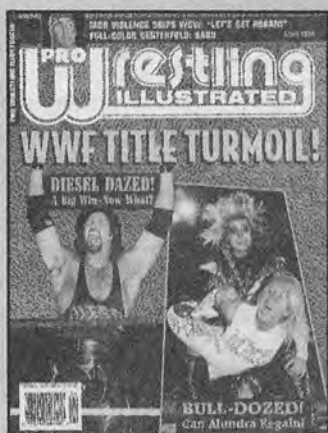
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## TITLE TURMOIL

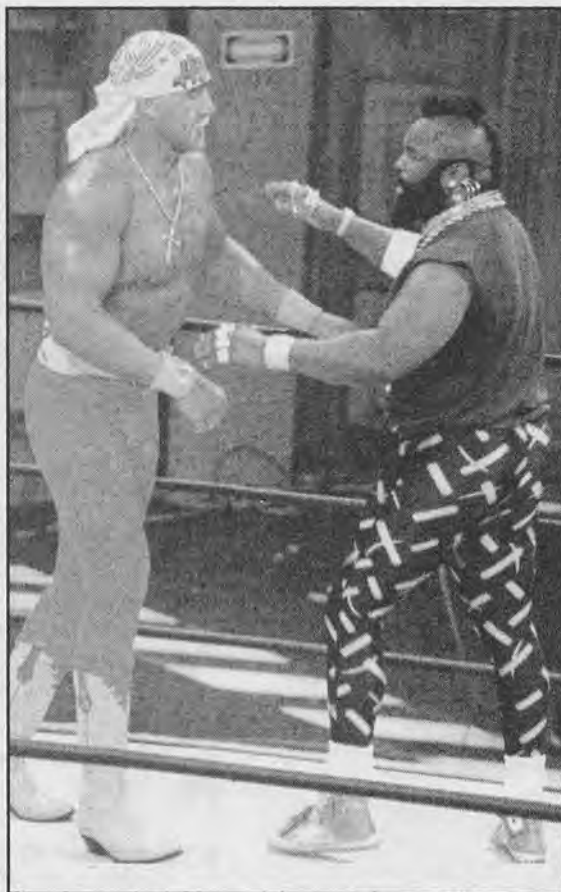


Our April 1995 cover story focused on the title turmoil in the WWF. Within just a few days, Diesel defeated Bob Backlund for the World title and Bull Nakano defeated Alundra Blayze for the World women's title. This, coupled with the fact that the World tag team title was vacant at the time, left the whole WWF title scene in upheaval. Our readers noticed this and had a lot to say.

"What is going on?" asked reader Gina Tipes of Mount Laurel, New Jersey. "Everything is changing so fast that fans are afraid to blink because they might miss a title change."

"I can't believe that Bull Nakano beat Alundra Blayze," said "PWI Hotline" caller Verne Putnam of Fort Myers, Florida. "I thought I had seen it all, but then Diesel destroyed Backlund for the belt. Now I'm interested in the WWF again! I hope they keep up the great action!"

"I can't remember the last time I saw the WWF in such chaos," said caller Jack Harley of Atlanta, Georgia.



Hulk Hogan, Mr. T, and other ex-WWF stars are still grabbing most of the attention in WCW, and that irks reader Steve Aynes. He wants to see exciting wrestlers like Sabu and Cactus Jack brought in.

## BEAM HIM OUT!

I can't believe that the WWF is letting that has-been actor William Shatner waltz onto the scene and disrupt everything. He sucker-punched Jerry Lawler on a "King's Court" segment! If he isn't careful, "The King" may just send him to the moon without using the Enterprise. If Shatner thought that fighting Klingons was tough, he should just wait until he faces a real man, not some Hollywood

actor in a costume. What will he do this time when Spock doesn't beam down to save his sorry butt?

JOHNNY PLUTO  
Pottstown, PA

## SOLD TO HOGAN

Ted Turner and WCW, you have sold out—not just to the wrestling fans, but to the entire sport of wrestling. What happened? Did you all just wake up one day stupid? You once had the finest group of talented wrestlers in your federation. You used to have cards in Smalltown, U.S.A., in the high school gyms and armories. That's when your fan support was at its highest, because fans could sit five rows back and still be close to the action. Those days are gone now that Hogan and company have come into town. You have brought in all the high-priced, no-talent wrestlers that aren't exciting to watch.

At one time, WCW had a good thing going, but now it is dying. My advice for Turner is to sell all of those high-priced bums and bring in wrestlers like the Steiners, Cactus Jack, and Sabu. Please, go back to the old WCW and dump the mid-1980s WWF garbage. We have seen it all played out years ago, so give us some good wrestling action.

STEVE AYNES  
Nashville, TN





Bret Hart sends Bam Bam Bigelow flying. Reader Denny Burkholder is sick of hearing people bash WWF head Vince McMahon for creating a circus atmosphere in the WWF. He says Hart and other WWF stars have plenty of talent.

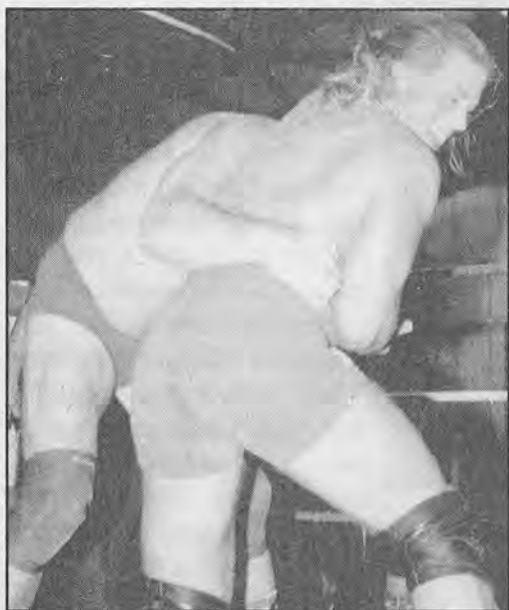
## CREDIT FOR VINCE

Ever since "Hulkamania's" success in the mid-1980s, Vince McMahon has been lambasted for promoting a circus. Reading the March 1995 issue was like witnessing the relentless beating of a dead horse, with all the negative potshots being taken at McMahon. If WCW had young,

promising talent like The Kid or Bob Holly, then maybe they'd get rid of some of those washed-up guys like Avalanche. If the WWF has been despicable for so many years, then why would the WCW be trying to recreate it? That should be the true gripe of any fan complaining about the WWF. Why isn't WCW afraid of losing its respected status as wrestling's honest, hardcore institution?

Maybe all this complaining about the WWF is simply a reflex. Like him or not, McMahon's "circus" has given us one hell of a show the past decade. Seven of the past 10 *PWI* Matches Of The Year belong to the WWF. Gripe about Doink and Duke "The Dumpster" Droese all you want. In the meantime, I'll be watching Bret Hart wrestle.

DENNY BURKHOLDER  
Greene, NY



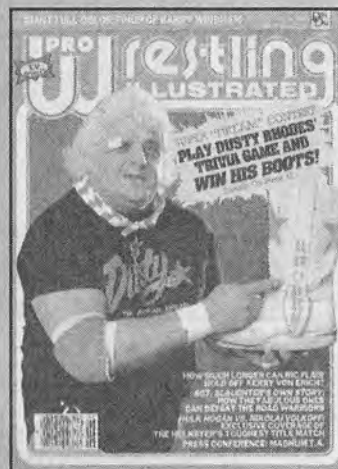
There should be more coverage of independent wrestling in *PWI*, says reader Steve Benjamin. He likes watching Rob Van Dam and other Atlantic Wrestling Federation greats.

## ROCKIN' THE INDIES

I am disappointed with the lack of information about independent wrestling.

(Continued on page 66)

## 10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



The cover of the June 1985 issue featured a *PWI* contest in which readers had a chance to win Dusty Rhodes' boots—the ones he had worn when he won both of his NWA World titles. To enter, one had to answer 10 trivia questions about Rhodes; the winner was determined by a random drawing.

The centerfold featured Barry Windham, who then held the WWF World tag team championship with Mike Rotundo. Windham and Rotundo had spent some time in the NWA before they shocked the wrestling world by entering the WWF. Under the tutelage of Capt. Lou Albano, Windham and Rotundo (currently known as Irwin R. Schyster) won the WWF World tag team title from Adrian Adonis and Dick Murdoch on January 21, 1985.

Elsewhere in the magazine: In "Press Conference," Magnum T.A. talked with Senior Editor Bill Apter and Associate Editors Eddie Ellner and Dan Shocket about his feud with Tully Blanchard and how he won a \$50,000 battle royal ... Exclusive coverage of Hulk Hogan's toughest title match—against Nikolai Volkoff—was provided ... Sgt. Slaughter wrote a story telling The Fabulous Ones exactly what it would take for them to defeat The Road Warriors ... The rivalry between NWA World champion Ric Flair and Kerry Von Erich was discussed as many wondered how much longer the "Nature Boy" could hold off his challenger.

Magazine availability: Limited.



# RINGST

With Bill Apter

THE NEW YORK-BASED Guardian Angels have taken their stamp of approval off the wrestler who once used their name as his ring moniker. **The Guardian Angel** has proven that he is back to being the despicable person he was early in his career. We all saw proof of it when Angel—now **Big Bubba Rogers** again—attacked **Sting** while acting as special referee during the **Sting-Avalanche** match at **Clash of the Champions XXX** in Las Vegas.

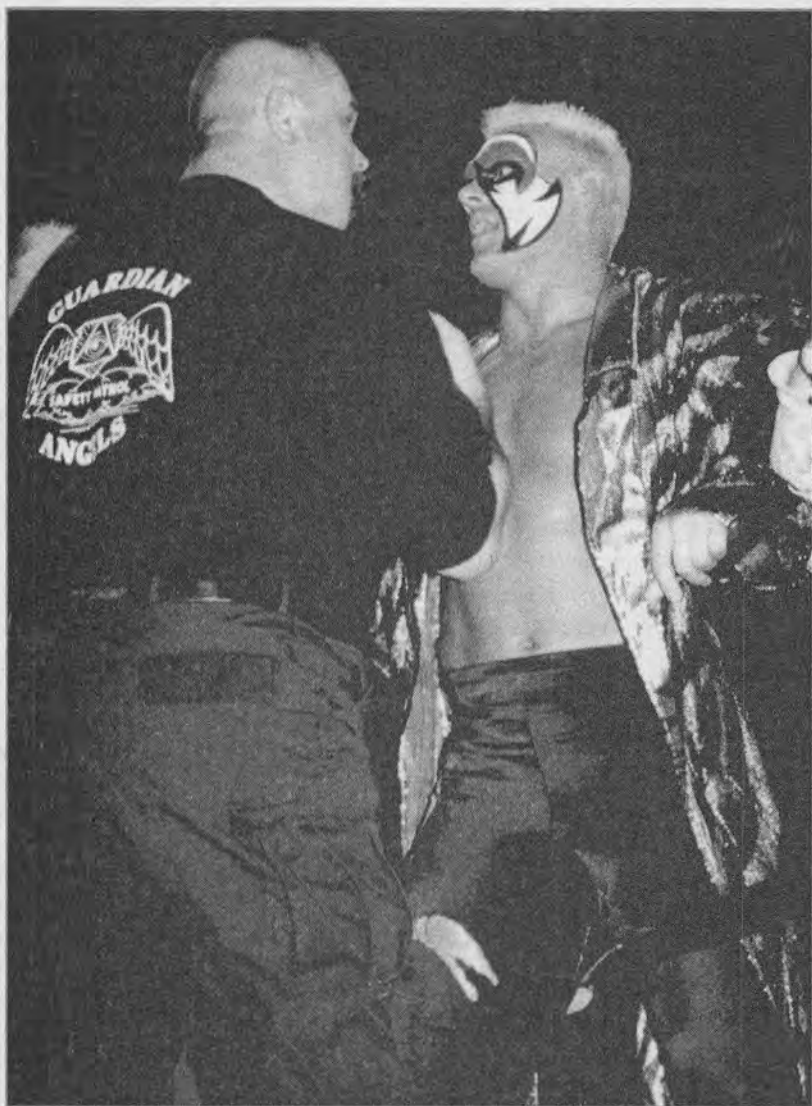
"I don't care anymore!" Rogers screamed at **PWI** photographer **Chris Farina** just minutes after the match. "To hell with **WCW**! They sent

**Nick Patrick** in during the match because they didn't like the way I was refereeing. I'm insulted! I'm furious! I'm gonna talk to **Kevin Sullivan** about joining the **Three Faces of Fear**!" This confused man's persona has changed several times over the past few years. After a stint as Rogers in the early-1980s (when he was **Jim Cornette's** bodyguard), he was **Big Bossman**, **The Boss**, **The Man**, and **The Guardian Angel**.

"He is really mixed up," said **Sting**. "I feel sorry for him." **Sullivan** tells me he will welcome Rogers with open arms.

**Buddy Landell** is still raising plenty of hell in Tennessee. Thanks to this "Nature Boy," **Jerry Lawler** is the new Smoky Mountain heavy-weight champion. **Landell** was the official timekeeper for a match between **Lawler** and champion "**Dirty White Boy**" **Tony Anthony** in Knoxville. The match was supposed to have a 60-minute time limit. But about 20 minutes into the

action, **Anthony** choke-slammed **Lawler** and went for the pin. Before referee **Mark Curtis** could make the count, **Landell** rang the bell. When **Curtis** questioned **Landell**, he said the time limit had expired. **Curtis** immediately slid out of the ring and fired **Landell** from his position.



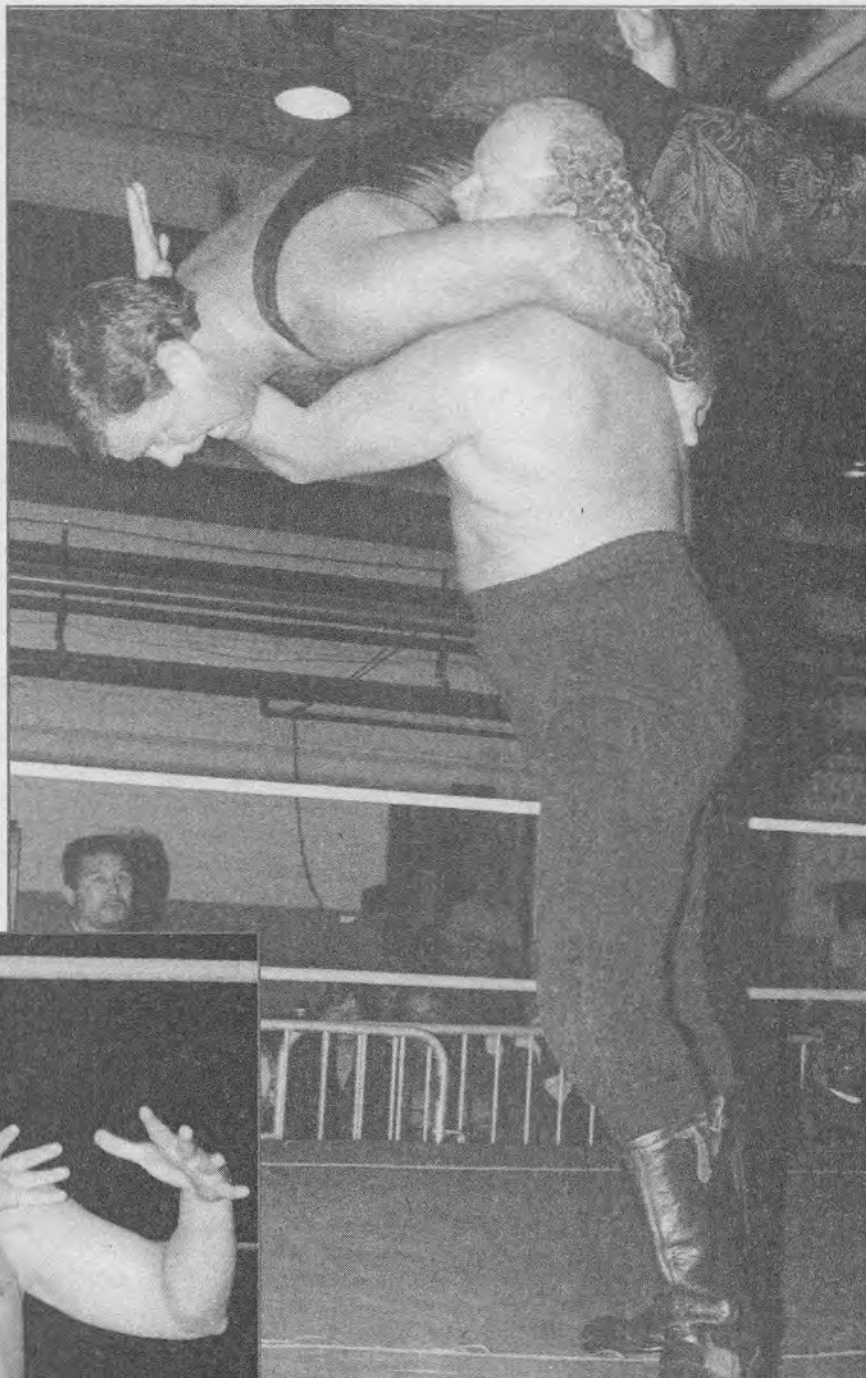
The Guardian Angel—now Big Bubba Rogers again—attacked **Sting** at **Clash of the Champions XXX** and is back to rulebreaking. He is strongly considering joining the **Three Faces of Fear**.



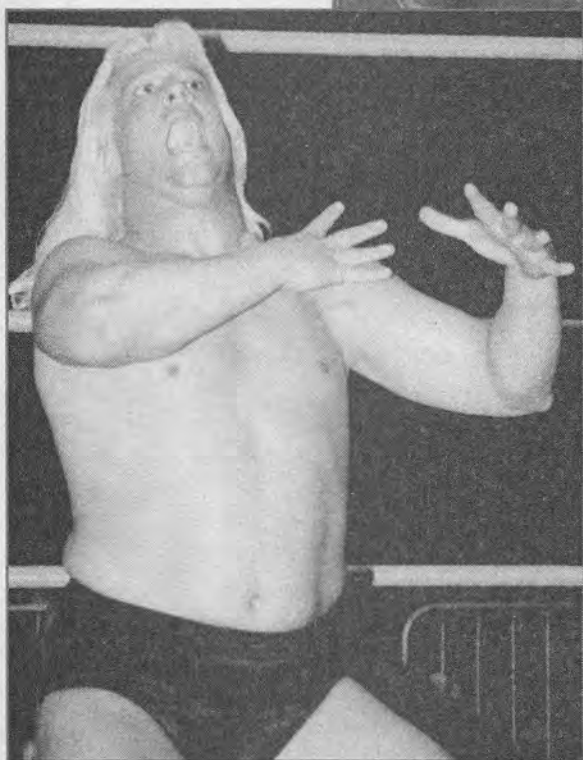
As Curtis climbed back onto the ring apron, however, Lawler accidentally crashed into him and knocked him to the floor. That allowed Landell to enter the ring, piledrive Anthony, and put Lawler on top of him. Landell then helped Curtis back into the ring, where he made the three-count.

I'm sad to report that **Jerry "Crusher" Blackwell** died on January 22 at a hospital in Atlanta. Blackwell, who was 45 years old, had been in an automobile accident in late-December. His health rapidly deteriorated following the accident, and he died from complications resulting from pneumonia. My condolences to his family ... **"Crippler" Ray Stevens** underwent triple-bypass surgery in late-January. A smiling Stevens told me he wants all his fans to know that he's on the road to recovery and is

feeling just fine ... **Big John Studd** had a recent setback in his battle with Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer ... **Harley Race**, manager of **Big Van Vader**, broke his hip in an automobile acci-



Tony Anthony was handling Jerry Lawler very well in a Smoky Mountain match (above), until Buddy Landell (left), who was the official timekeeper for the match, got involved and cost the "Dirty White Boy" the SMW title.



dent in late-January.

**"British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith** recently had a meeting with WWF President **Jack Tunney** in which Smith demanded to know why

*(Continued on page 70)*



from the desk of..

**Stuart M. Saks**

If somebody tells you something that you know can't possibly be true, and that somebody knows it can't possibly be true, would it still be considered a lie?

Think about that while I tell you what happened the other night. I was driving with *PWI* Rookie of the Year 911 to a restaurant in Philadelphia when we passed by Veterans Stadium, home of the Phillies. We got to talking about what a shame it would be if the 1995 season was cancelled because of the strike and what a sham it would be if the owners went ahead and used replacement players.

"I don't even know where they're going to get enough players to field 28 teams," I said. "They're going to have to find about 750 men who are willing to give up their regular jobs for temporary work."

911 didn't hear a word I said. He just stared at the lonely cement slab they fondly call the Vet. Realizing he was deep in thought for maybe the first time in months, I didn't want to interrupt. Three minutes or so after the stadium was out of sight, he finally broke his silence.

"I'm gonna do it," he said.

"What a you gonna do?" I asked.

"I'm gonna play major league baseball," he said, smiling as if he had just choke-slammed Santa Clause. "I'm gonna play for the Phillies."

I laughed. He didn't. He was serious.

"You have no idea, do you?" he said condescendingly.

"No idea about what?" I asked.

"No idea how I got my name. I wasn't born with the name 911, you know."

"Well," I said, "I just sort of figured you took the name from the emergency phone number, because by the time you are done with your opponents ..."

"They need to call 911," he interrupted.

"Well," he continued, "that's only part of it. The real reason they call me 911 is because I used to play semi-pro baseball. My last year I batted .911. So everybody started calling me ..."

(Continued on page 72)



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# in focus

By Craig Peters

## PERSONALITY POLL: READERS SPEAK OUT!

Back in the April 1995 edition of "In Focus," I asked you to respond to the following two questions: (1) Who is the one star that, when you see him (or her) in action, either in person or in the press, makes you proud to be a wrestling fan and makes you want to see him (or her) again and again? In other words, who is the one star that makes wrestling exciting and worth watching for you? And: (2) Who is the one star you

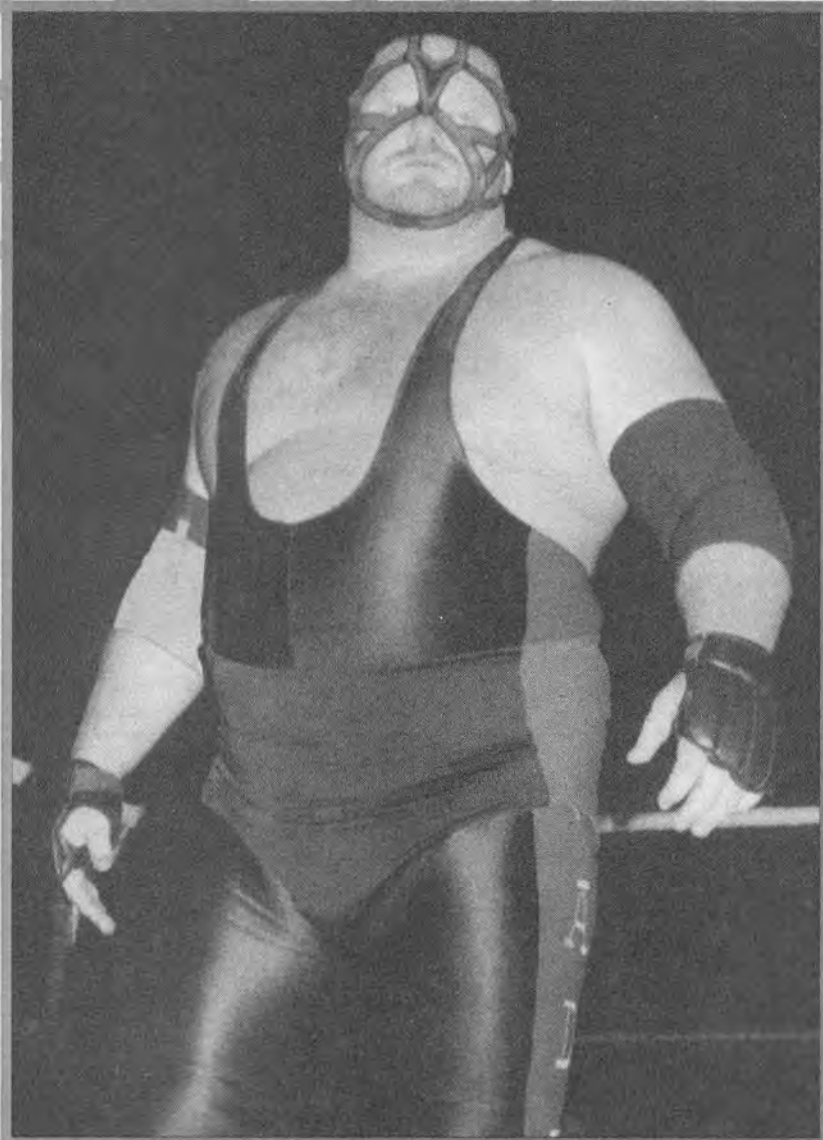
wish would fade away from the sport tomorrow and never be heard from again? Not preliminary wrestlers, of course, but grapplers in the upper reaches of the "PWI 500," wrestlers who receive plenty of publicity and television time, but make you groan and reach for the remote control (or head for the arena concession stand) every time you see them.

You sent me your responses, some as brief as a pair of names, and others as lengthy as six handwritten pages (in tiny writing, I might add!). The most surprising aspect of the poll is that there was no general consensus, no single individual who stood apart from the pack as far as stars who most make fans proud to be fans. That is, I believe, a very healthy sign for the sport (though if pressed to make a distinction, I'd have to report that more votes came in for Big Van Vader and Bret Hart than anyone else).

On the flip side of the coin, however, Hulk Hogan surprised me with how definitively he led the pack as being the one wrestler who fans are absolutely sick and tired of seeing and hearing on television and in the arenas. That is, I believe, a very unhealthy sign—not for the sport, but for WCW.

Some excerpts from some of your letters:

From Austin Chung of Los Angeles, California: "I believe that the wrestler who makes me most proud to be a fan is the unpredictable Sabu. He takes the sport of pro wrestling to a new level. This daredevil's maniacal and reckless style is not for everyone, but it's definitely the type of



Most fans don't appreciate Big Van Vader's tactics, but they obviously love to watch him anyway. One fan said Vader would be the man he'd love to have on his side in a fight.



wrestling I like to watch."

From Kent McClintock of San Luis Obispo, California: "You asked which wrestler I wish would just fade away forever. I know you asked for one, but for me, there's two: Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage. These two egomaniacs make me sick to my stomach every time I watch wrestling. First 'Macho Man.' Him and that stupid frog-voice of his. This goof must be a descendant from Froggy on *The Little Rascals*. Now the almighty Hulk Hogan. No wrestler on the face of the Earth gets more publicity than this idiot. I mean, I get sick of hearing Hulk Hogan this and Hulk Hogan that. Well, I just hope that Bret Hart doesn't wind up having an ego the size of Hogan's, because if that happens, all is lost for wrestling as we know it."

From Dan Farmer of Cleveland, Ohio: "Answer to question one: Terry Funk. The idea that this guy is still wrestling at 50 years old is great."

From Carl R. Louk of Prince George, Virginia: "As for the one star that I wish would fade away from the sport tomorrow and never be heard from again, that would be Doink. I don't have much to say about Doink; Stuart M. Saks summed it up best in his 'From The Desk Of ...' column in the April 1995 issue of *PWI*: 'Doink may be a decent wrestler, but, dammit, he's a clown.' I don't think there's anything else to say; that says it all, pure and simple."

From Brian Diericks of Madison, Wisconsin, who also names Shawn Michaels as a favorite: "The other wrestler that I really enjoy watching is 'Macho Man' Randy Savage. Whether he is wrestling, commentating, or visiting sick children, he really seems to enjoy what he is doing. I really admire that about him. He puts his heart into his job. He seems like a real, genuine, honest man. Unlike other wrestlers (Hulk Hogan), Randy doesn't lie about past mistakes such as steroid use."

From Daren Bourns of Clinton, Mississippi: "While Sting may be the ultimate good guy, if you asked most fans if they could pick any wrestler to be in their corner in a fight, they would pick Vader. Where he is concerned, dislike, fear, and, above all else, respect, go hand-in-hand. Almost as big as Andre the Giant, with the agility of Tiger Mask, and as intimidating as Bruiser Brody, you can't help but respect him. If you watch him too long, you might find yourself cheering for Vader. He is never boring to watch."

And finally, this letter from Abbie Vicknair (no address provided), which attests to the special qualities of a wrestler

who really does go the extra mile for his fans: "I am afraid I can only answer your first question. He is a very popular fan favorite in World Championship Wrestling. His name is Johnny B. Badd. I know that this answer may not shock you, but there is a special reason he means so much to me. In July 1994, my grandfather died after a two-year battle with lung cancer. Out of his four sisters and three brothers that were there at his funeral, not one talked to me, his only granddaughter. In October 1994, I wrote Johnny a 2½-page letter thanking him for his words of encouragement. On October 27, 1994, Johnny called me to tell me how special he thought I was. That is why he is number-one in my book." □



"Doink may be a decent wrestler, but, dammit, he's a clown!" That's what Stu Saks wrote in a recent column, and a lot of fans who responded to this survey agreed with him.



# win or lose draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

**T**URNS OUT THAT The Guardian Angel isn't such a nice guy after all. Turns out he's still just Big Bubba Rogers. Just mean, nasty, old Bubba Rogers.

This time, it wasn't a surprise that he changed. At least it shouldn't have been. The signs were there. Guardian Angel had been seething over a lack of meaningful matches. He was manhandled in a series of pay-per-view bouts against Big Van Vader. He had words with Sting. It was becoming apparent he was no angel, at least not one who had earned his wings.

It's still sad. It's still a major disappointment. Because if there was a man who really could have helped the cause of fan favorites in WCW, it was The Guardian Angel. Excuse me, Big Bubba Rogers.

As Big Bossman in the WWF, Rogers made a big difference. Though he was a rulebreaker for a while, fans usually enjoyed cheering for him. They felt confident he was fighting the good fight. At SummerSlam '91, he even forced Jacques Rougeau to spend a night in jail.

When he came to WCW as The Boss, he brought

goodwill with him. He was going to be the ultimate vigilante, demonstrating to rulebreakers that if they were going to put themselves on the wrong side of the law, they would have to do it at his expense. It was not a challenge any of them relished.

For a while it worked out that way. Boss was tough and resolute. Even Vader felt his hot breath. However, it was during a match with Vader that the seeds were planted for Boss' re-emergence as Bubba Rogers.

After losing to Vader at 1994's Spring Stampede, Boss attacked Vader's manager, Harley Race. WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel quickly halted the attack and escorted Boss back to the locker room. Bockwinkel took away Boss' nightstick and handcuffs and said he could no longer call himself The Boss.

It was, Boss would tell friends, a huge insult. He felt that Bockwinkel had embarrassed him in front of a national pay-per-view audience. Boss didn't believe he had done anything wrong. So he took a few shots at Race. What was wrong with that? The guy deserved it, didn't he?

Later, Boss became The Guardian Angel, an official member of the crime-fighting group of the same name. The Guardian Angels were very happy to accept him. He would be their representative in the sport, helping to spread their message of community involvement. It seemed Boss (excuse me, Angel) was effective. He seemed to enjoy his association with the Angels. Underneath it all, though, he was plotting another change. All he needed was the opportunity, which he found when Bockwinkel appointed him referee



Rogers briefly feuded with Avalanche back in their WWF days ... when Rogers was Big Bossman, and Avalanche was Earthquake. Now they are tag team partners, but who knows how long that alliance will last?

for the bout between Sting and Avalanche at Clash of the Champions XXX in Las Vegas.

Rogers was asking Avalanche if he wanted to submit to Sting's Scorpion deathlock when a second referee, Nick Patrick, hit the ring and called for the bell, indicating that there was a submission. Rogers went after Patrick and then Sting, joining Avalanche in a double-team on the "Stinger."

*(Continued on page 76)*

# TAKE US ON!



#1: Big Ben



#2: Ace Stevens



#3: Jaeger van Dorn



#4: Bodybag Jones



#5: Wildfire Johnny Rage



#6: Eric Darkstrom



#7: Nook the Secret Weapon



#8: Derek Craven



#9: El Diablo Sanchez



#10: Tygar Singh

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## WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. AIRPLANE SPIN
2. ARMBAR
3. ARMDRAG
4. ARMLOCK
5. ARM STRETCH
6. ARM WHIP
7. ASIAN SPIKE
8. BEAR HUG
9. BITING
10. BODY SLAM
11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE AXEHANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERENCE
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSIONS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATE KICK
52. SCISSIONS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURFBOARD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

## SET-UP HOLDS

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. DDT
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
84. RUSSIAN SICKLE
85. SLEEPER
86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
88. SPINE BUSTER
89. SUNSET FLIP
90. SUPERPLEX

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE) \_\_\_\_\_

WRESTLER'S HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_

WRESTLER'S WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL GIMMICK OR DESCRIPTION OF WRESTLER \_\_\_\_\_

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU) \_\_\_\_\_

**Wear-Down Holds:** Choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_

**Set-Up Holds:** Choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at right. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**Finishing Hold:** Create your custom final maneuver or choose a hold from the 90 shown. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces.

FINISHING HOLD \_\_\_\_\_

**Opponents:** Check the numbers of the men you want your wrestler to go against from the 10 at the top. Remember to enclose \$1<sup>00</sup> for each.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_





pared to the tremendous beating he took from the fans. Leading the jeers was Taylor, who, during his outstanding NFL career, was known as one of the league's great trash-talkers. Bigelow didn't appreciate being the source of Taylor's laughter and shoved him from his ring-side seat to somewhere between the third and fourth rows.

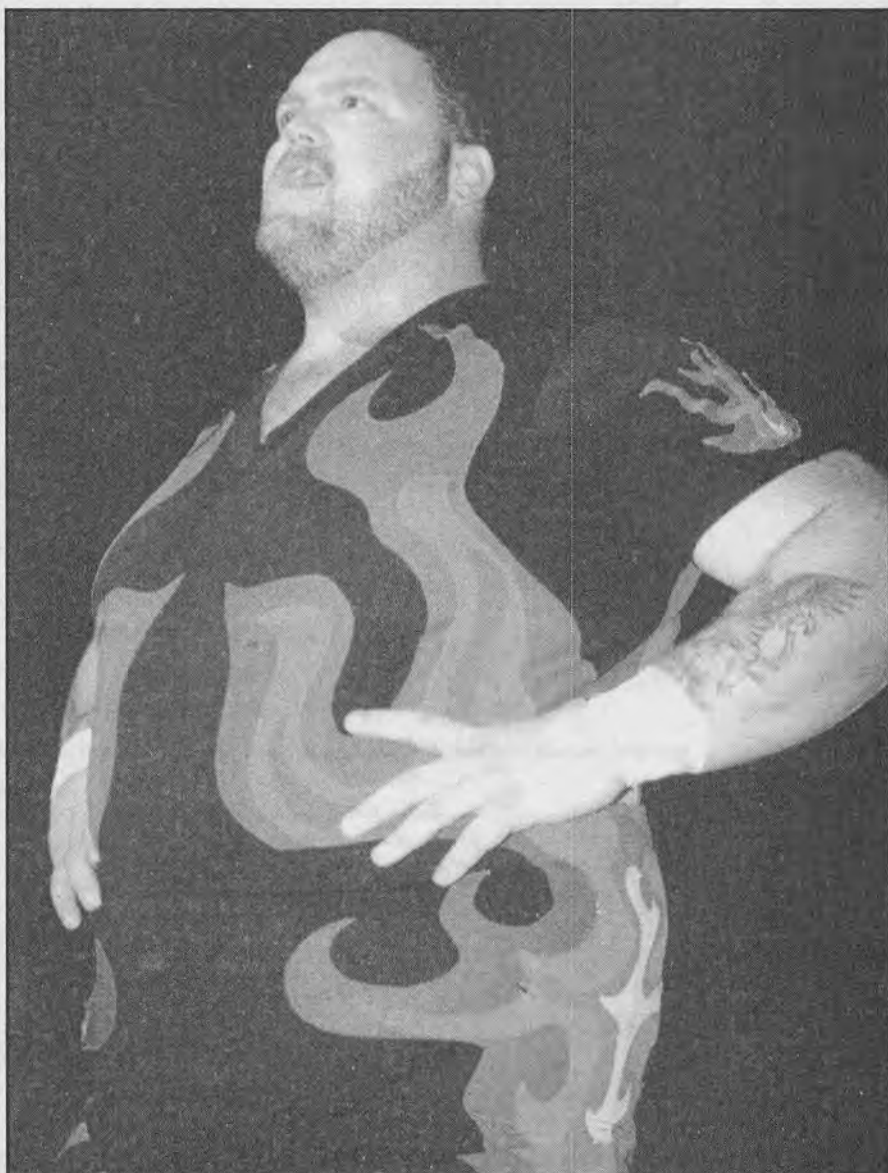
Bigelow thought he landed the final blow, but he was slapped with a one-month suspension without pay by WWF head Vince McMahon, who was

**ROYAL RUMBLINGS.** Boy, it's amazing how much easier it is to write a column several days after a major pay-per-view event than it is to do it several days before. Deadlines become life-lines. Prognostications become second guesses. And with the camera rolling, you can always count on somebody doing something stupid to immortalize himself on videotape.

Like Bam Bam Bigelow, for instance. Perhaps if Bigelow had attacked his opponents with the same enthusiasm with which he went after former football star Lawrence Taylor, he wouldn't be wondering about his future, which right now appears very unsettled.

Bigelow and Tatanka entered the ring as partners in manager Ted DiBiase's Corporation and favorites to become the next WWF World tag team champs. They left the ring as former partners. The two actually found a way to lose to the immortal tandem of The Kid and Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly. Given their edge in size, strength, and experience, this was an inexcusable setback.

But the loss Bigelow suffered in the ring was nothing com-



Bam Bam Bigelow made a fool of himself at the Royal Rumble when he attacked Lawrence Taylor. The "Beast From The East" should be even more embarrassed, writes Chris Bernucca, that he and Tatanka lost to ... *The Kid and Bob Holly.*

visibly shaken by what happened. With no matches on his schedule for the next 30 days, Bigelow should have plenty of free time to put his tiny brain to work on how he went from a man who should have been champ to a chump. DiBiase severed ties with his overrated Corporation member and has started his search for new talent.

Whoever DiBiase finds should have no problem teaming with Tatanka and helping him win the tag team title. Of course, they won't be winning it from The Kid and Bob Holly, who lost the belts the night after the Rumble to an equally immortal duo known as The Smokin' Gunns. As of this writing, they are still the champions. But the title will probably change hands three or four times before the next pay-per-view event.

Perhaps we all owe an apology to Bob Backlund, who held the WWF World title for a grand total of three days last November before he lost it to Diesel. Welcome to the WWF, where 72 hours now constitutes a dynasty. The truth is that the tag team division is starting to look like the NBA, where every team is seriously flawed in one way or another. All of the stars are too greedy and selfish to subjugate their egos for the success of the team.

Right now, Rick and Scott Steiner could waltz right in and dominate the circuit, but they are rumored to be headed back to WCW, which is also plagued by inconsistency among its tag teams.

So who is the best tag team in wrestling? Don't laugh—it could be Shawn Michaels and Pamela Anderson. The Royal Rumble saw Michaels enter the ring first and leave the ring last;

he battled his way out of countless situations in which he was outmanned. He again displayed the combination of skills, acrobatics, and mental toughness that make him, pound-for-pound, the best wrestler in the world.

Michaels appeared to be finished when he was dumped out of the ring by Davey Boy Smith. In fact, Smith's theme music had already been cued up and started by a sound technician who is probably now commiserating with Bigelow on the unemployment line. Michaels pulled himself back into the ring and dispensed with Davey Boy, earning a long-awaited and well-deserved championship match at WrestleMania XI.

Rules for elimination require both feet to touch the mat outside the ring, and videotape clearly showed that Michaels didn't allow his second foot to make contact. Instant replay wasn't used as a determinant, but perhaps it should have been, especially since the match involved 30 wrestlers. The officiating in wrestling is far worse than it is in football, where NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue is considering a return to big brother in the booth to help the fellows on the field. With all of the distractions referees are forced to deal with in the squared circle, the use of replay would be a good idea.

Speaking of distractions, let's turn our attention to Anderson.

She was no more than a prop at the Royal Rumble, but will now escort Michaels to the ring at WrestleMania. As far as other women go, Anderson makes Sherri Martel and Luna Vachon look like heavy metal groupies. Regarding men, she simply makes them look.

This could be a factor at WrestleMania. Michaels is scheduled to face Diesel, who wasn't exactly dominant in his



Shawn Michaels celebrates his Royal Rumble victory with Pamela Anderson on his arm. Considering the wretched roster of tag teams the WWF has right now, this could be the federation's hottest duo.

title match against Bret Hart at the Royal Rumble. Hart and Michaels possess many of the same ring skills, and strategies that worked for Hart could work for Michaels, who actually interfered in the title match on Hart's behalf and owns an additional advantage on the champ: He was once Diesel's guru, which means he knows all of his strengths—and all of his weaknesses. Perhaps one of those weaknesses is a fondness for buxom blondes in tight outfits.

See you in Hartford. □





*If you wish to  
contribute to  
Ellner's mailbag,  
send your letters to:*

### **TOP ROPE**

Box 1148

Ft. Washington, PA 19034

*(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)*

**I** AM NOT long for these parts. After countless false starts, I am making a move to a more exotic kingdom. Once settled in the west, I will visit Japan, where wrestlers are venerated for their talent, not the size of their artificially grown biceps. I will explore the fertile jungles of Hawaii, the Malaysian rain forests, and the Australian outback, where aborigines wrestle alligators, and the winners celebrate by eating their victims ... which is an interesting match concept. Imagine Big Van Vader against Hulk Hogan in a "cannibal" match. I'm driving my way west, like the great pioneers. Riding shotgun is Contributing Editor Liz Hunter. I don't expect her to survive, since this type of trip requires spiritual tenacity, and already Liz is complaining about the lack of upscale department stores along the Missouri Trail. With or without her, I am coming, America, to a small trailer park near you; consider this your final warning.

Dear Eddie,

I heard a rumor that The Road Warriors may be reuniting. Is this true? If it is, where would they go? Can they dominate like they once did? And why did it take so long for them to get back together?

BILLY ODETTIS

Detroit, MI

Dear Billy,

You expect a lot of answers for 32 cents, Billy. Least you could do is slip a 10 spot in the envelope to help defray my moving costs.

Hawk and Animal are like a pair of those proverbial 800-pound gorillas. They can go anywhere they want. There isn't a promoter in America who wouldn't salivate at the prospect of hosting a Road Warrior reunion tour. Even if Animal's back injury (which forced him out in the first place) leaves him at less than 100 percent, The Legion of Doom could compete for any title on which they set their sights. No, they wouldn't dominate like they once did, and it would be unfair to expect them to. The Road Warriors were like a comet, a once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon that will never be duplicated.

Dear Eddie,

I'm bored with pro wrestling. There seems to be something lacking in the sport. It doesn't thrill me the way it once did. Is it me, or is wrestling suffering a slump of personality?

BEEBEE LANDIS

San Diego, CA

Dear Beebee,

We are entering Year 10 of the Hogan Era, and some minor discomfort and depression is to be expected. Exclude meat and dairy from your diet for the next four weeks, and every morning at sunrise face east and chant "Hare, Vader."

Dear Eddie,

Is O.J. Simpson guilty?

DEBRA LANDSON

Milwaukee, WI

Dear Debra,

In a recent issue of *Wrestling Superstars*, Bill Apter-wannabe Dave Rosenbaum compiled an "Index Of Evil" chart containing the year's worst villains. Mass

*(Continued on page 64)*



The Road Warriors might reunite, and they might not. It doesn't matter, because they'll never dominate like they did in their prime. Still, I wouldn't mind seeing them take apart those two smilin' cowboys, Billy and Bart Gunn.

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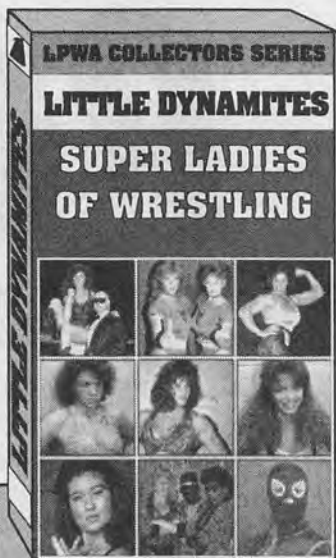
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# THE 1995 PWI POLL:

**W**HAT DOES WRESTLING think about wrestling? For the third straight year, we posed that question—in 50 different forms—to the sport's most knowledgeable insiders. In December, *PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED* mailed out 125 ballots worldwide (up 35 from last year) in an effort to get some answers. The ballots went to a cross-section of the sport's champions, contenders, and preliminary wrestlers; managers and referees; commissioners and presidents; promoters and matchmakers; journalists, TV announcers, photographers, and anyone else who contributes to the game. They were asked to answer 50 questions pertaining to the sport and the people within it (including, in many cases, themselves). Their answers provide a unique view of the sport. Several questions were repeated from last year's poll; many of the questions were new.

Once again, the poll was split into two parts: Part I consists of general and specific questions about the sport, while Part II is our "Best Of The Best," in which the insiders voted on who has the best of various finishing holds and maneuvers. Where applicable, numbers in parentheses indicate the percentage votes that specific response received in last year's poll.

## 1. WHO IS, POUND-FOR-POUND, THE BEST WRESTLER IN THE WORLD?

Shawn Michaels .....	.26% (8%)
Sabu .....	.19% (0%)
Big Van Vader .....	.13% (0%)
Bret Hart .....	.11% (14%)
Jushin Liger .....	.5% (27%)
Others .....	.26% (20%)



Sabu



Big Van Vader



Bret Hart

**W**ith Japanese light heavyweight legend Jushin Liger—and two-time "PWI Poll" choice—on the sidelines with a broken ankle, several other wrestlers had the chance to strut their stuff. The poll deadline was five days after the Royal Rumble, which accounts only partly for Shawn Michaels' strong showing. Michaels, at 234 pounds, was ranked fifth in the "PWI 500," tying him with Bret Hart as the lightest wrestler in the top five. Sabu, at 220 pounds, might have the most moves of any wrestler in the world. Big Van Vader's surprising showing indicates that you don't have to be small to make an impact in this category. WWF Intercontinental champion Jeff Jarrett placed highest among the others with four percent.

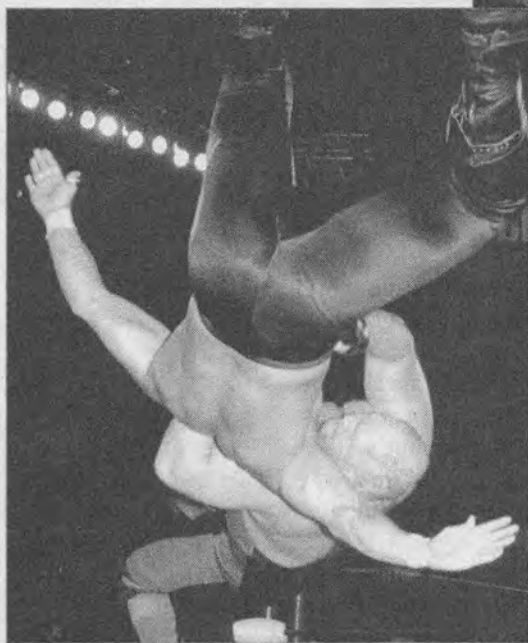
# WRESTLING'S 50 HOTTEST QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

## 2. IF YOU COULD WATCH THE MATCHES OF ONLY ONE WRESTLER, WHOM WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

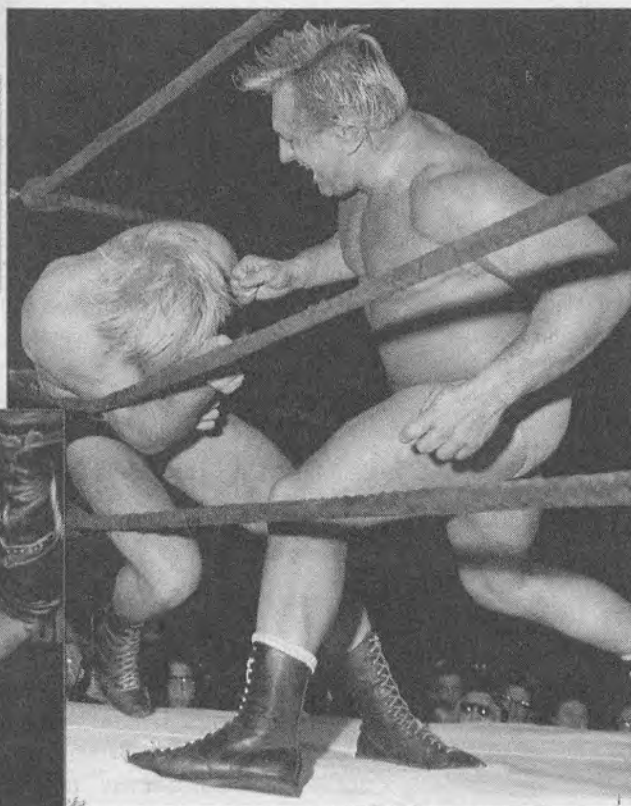
<i>Ric Flair</i> .....	.63% (55%)
<i>Sabu</i> .....	.8% (0%)
<i>Lou Thesz</i> .....	.6% (7%)
<i>Buddy Rogers</i> .....	.5% (6%)
<i>Big Van Vader</i> .....	.5% (0%)
<i>Others</i> .....	.13% (19%)

The question was purposefully worded this way so respondents would take into account current and retired wrestlers.

There is little doubt that Flair's retirement and absence from the ring have made the heart grow fonder for this all-time great. It all suggests that, over time, Flair may well be remembered as the greatest wrestler ever. He's a winner for the third straight year. Strong showing for Sabu, whose daredevil attitude and athletic excellence make him one of the wrestlers worth watching night after night.



*Vader suplexes Sting*



*Buddy Rogers slugs Johnny Valentine*



### 3. IF YOU COULD WATCH THE MATCHES OF ONLY ONE TAG TEAM, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

<i>The Legion Of Doom</i> .....	36% (29%)
<i>Rick &amp; Scott Steiner</i> .....	20% (7%)
<i>The Midnight Express</i> .....	18% (18%)
<i>The British Bulldogs</i> .....	8% (4%)
<i>The Hart Foundation</i> .....	7% (3%)
<i>Others</i> .....	11% (8%)

Last year, we questioned whether the poll results were a sad commentary on the current state of tag team wrestling or a sad commentary on the current *champions*. Our conclusion this year is that the poll results are a sad commentary on the current state of tag team wrestling, though not necessarily the depth of the tag team roster (there are many good ones, but few great ones). Harlem Heat, the current WCW World tag team champions, received no votes. Neither did current WWF World tag champs The Smokin' Gunns. Our respondents clamored for the return of The Legion of Doom and the Steiners, returns which were in the works at press time.



*Rick & Scott Steiner*

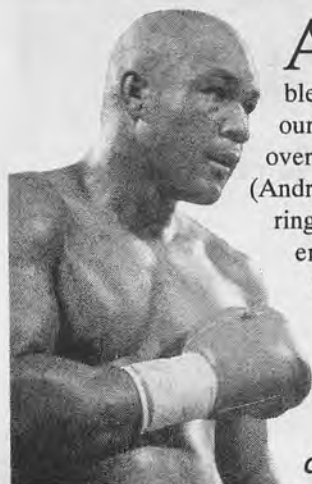
### 4. WHO WOULD WIN A MATCH BETWEEN HULK HOGAN AND DIESEL?

In this matchup of the WCW and WWF world champions, the "Hulkster" won in a walk. Interestingly, two years ago, respondents gave WCW World champion Big Van Vader a 53-47 edge over WWF World champion Hogan. This year's results reflect our feelings that Diesel is one of the WWF's weakest World champions ever.

<i>Hulk Hogan</i> .....	.84%
<i>Diesel</i> .....	.16%

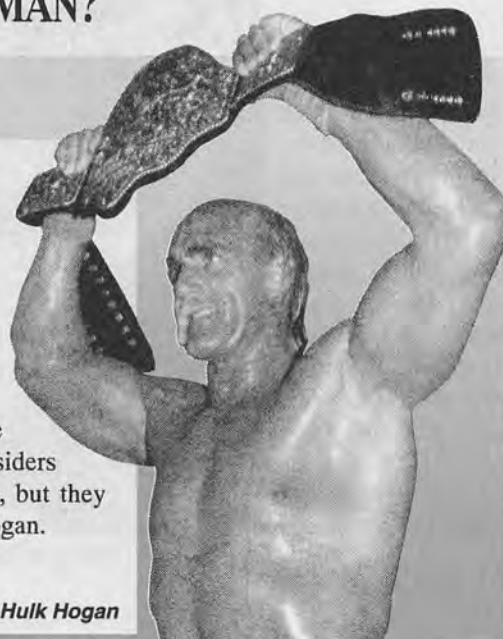
### 5. WHO WOULD WIN A MATCH BETWEEN HULK HOGAN AND HEAVY-WEIGHT BOXING CHAMPION GEORGE FOREMAN?

<i>Hulk Hogan</i> .....	.83%
<i>George Foreman</i> .....	.17%



*George Foreman*

Ageless George Foreman regained the world heavyweight title in 1994, but he'd get humbled by ageless Hulk Hogan, at least according to our insiders. Our insiders undoubtedly recalled the overwhelming edge wrestlers have had over boxers (Andre the Giant threw Chuck Wepner out of the ring in their Shea Stadium bout). Boxers are generally limited in their ring education (they're taught how to punch and jab), while wrestlers are trained to use all parts of their bodies. Our insiders can imagine Hogan bodyslamming Foreman, but they can't imagine Foreman doing the same to Hogan.



*Hulk Hogan*

## 6. WHICH NORTH AMERICAN FEDERATION HAS THE HIGHEST-QUALITY WRESTLING?

WCW .....58% (72%)  
 WWF .....36% (26%)  
 Others .....6% (2%)

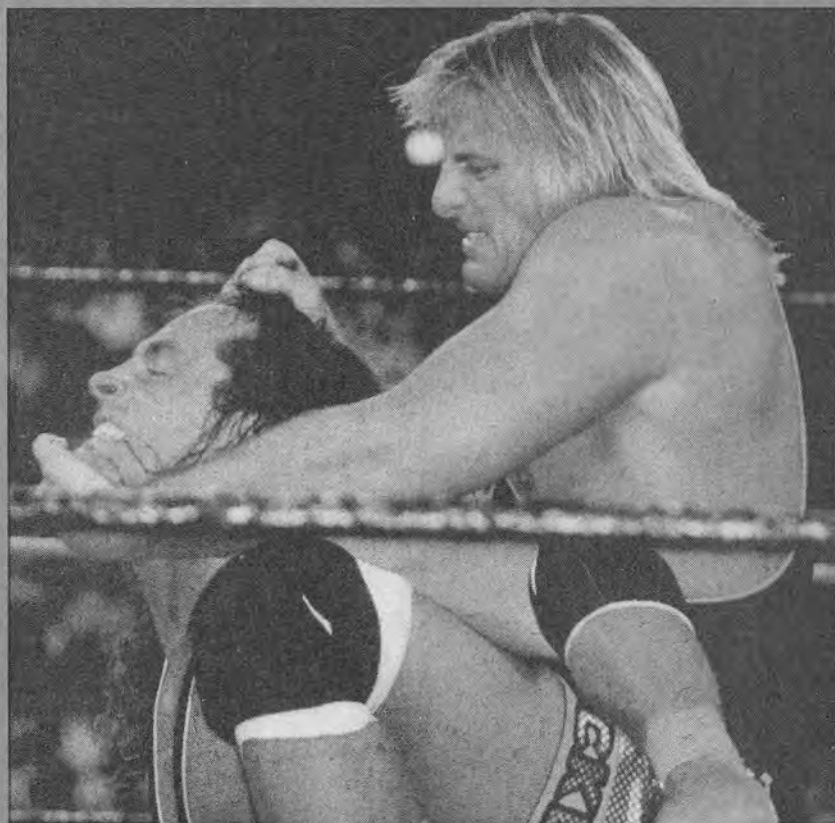
Strong support for three-time winner WCW, which over the past year raided the WWF for major talent like Hulk Hogan, Brutus Beefcake, Avalanche, Hacksaw Duggan, and Randy Savage. But you'll notice this question was worded so that our insiders would concentrate solely on wrestling, not other factors. Bret and Owen Hart, Jeff Jarrett, Bob Backlund, The Kid, Lex Luger, Shawn Michaels, and Davey Boy Smith helped the WWF close the margin with the high quality of wrestling they offer. In fact, many insiders commented that the tables have turned, with WCW having the more famous wrestlers, while the WWF has the stronger all-around wrestlers.

## 7. HAS WCW SURPASSED THE WWF AS THE PREMIER FEDERATION IN THE WORLD?

Don't take this result as a knock against WCW. Last year, the WWF topped WCW by a 68-9 margin as the dominant federation in North America. WCW dramatically closed the gap with the acquisition of high-profile talent and several successful pay-per-view events. But, as several respondents pointed out, Ric Flair's retirement took away much of WCW's steam, as well as a top-drawing match: Flair vs. Hulk Hogan. Noted one insider: "Just look at the respective brother vs. brother feuds in each federation. Owen Hart vs. Bret Hart in the WWF keeps picking up steam, but nobody cares about Kevin vs. Dave Sullivan." The WWF also has Shawn Michaels, who might be the most popular hated wrestler in the world. And there are many WWF devotees who know nothing about wrestling except what they know about the WWF. WCW continues to fight a battle against public perception.

No .....49%  
 Yes .....43%  
 Undecided .....8%

## 8. WILL BRET AND OWEN HART REUNITE IN 1995?



Bret Hart vs. Owen Hart

The War of the Harts will continue raging through 1995, and possibly 1996, according to our insiders. Interestingly, about 40 percent of those polled had returned their ballots prior to the Royal Rumble; at that time, the vote was 55-45 for yes. But the 60 percent who voted after the Royal Rumble overwhelmingly decided that the Bret-Owen situation is getting worse. Their attacks on each other revealed heightened hatred in this unfortunate family battle.

No .....75%  
 Yes .....25%



## 9. WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WRESTLING'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE AS HOPELESS, CLOUDY, STATUS QUO, PROMISING, OR SHINING?

Attendance decreased in the WWF, while it raised just a bit in WCW. WCW scored several pay-per-view victories, while the WWF rebounded with an impressive Royal Rumble. ECW continued its growth, and the sport saw an influx of bright and talented young stars. Vince McMahon was found not guilty of illegal distribution of steroids, and the public's image of the WWF improved in many eyes. An appearance by a civilized, classy Diesel on *Live! With Regis And*

<i>Promising</i> .....	43% (29%)
<i>Status quo</i> .....	33% (24%)
<i>Cloudy</i> .....	15% (42%)
<i>Shining</i> .....	8% (3%)
<i>Hopeless</i> .....	1% (2%)

Kathie Lee showed the general public that not all wrestlers are neanderthals. Many questions about wrestling were answered in a positive manner in 1994. Things are looking up for our sport, and the clouds that dominated last year have gone away.

## 11. WHO IS WRESTLING'S SEXIEST SUPERSTAR?

<i>Shawn Michaels</i> .....	38%
<i>Woman</i> .....	15%
<i>Diesel</i> .....	13%
<i>Tamara Murphy Fytch</i> .....	11%
<i>Others</i> .....	23%

Asking anybody to judge public views of sexiness is dangerous. We didn't ask our insiders to give us their views on sexiness, but merely to decide who the public views as wrestling's sexiest star. It came as no surprise that Shawn Michaels, who gets mobbed by female fans everywhere he goes, was an easy winner. WCW newcomer Alex Wright of Germany also gets plenty of attention from women. And Woman, ECW's sexpot, scored high points for her sexy dresses with their revealing necklines.



Tamara Murphy Fytch

## 10. IS WRESTLING BETTER OR WORSE THAN IT WAS ONE YEAR AGO?

<i>Better</i> .....	76% (64%)
<i>Worse</i> .....	24% (36%)

This is a completely subjective question open to a wide range of interpretations. But if one considers that at this time in 1994, a famous wrestler had been charged with statutory rape and the head of the biggest federation in the world was about to stand trial for illegal steroid distribution, it's easy to see how things improved. Charges were dropped against the wrestler; the federation head was found not guilty. WCW was strengthened by the addition of several former WWF stars, the WWF maintained its fan base, and several federations, most notably ECW and SMW, continued growing. There's ample reason for optimism.

## 12. DO YOU THINK STEROID USE IS STILL PREVALENT IN WRESTLING?

<i>No</i> .....	82% (65%)
<i>Yes</i> .....	18% (35%)

The monsters are gone, and the number of insiders who think steroid use is still prevalent keeps dropping each year. That's a good sign considering that these insiders should know what they're talking about. Hulk Hogan is no longer the oversized muscleman he once was, and even USWA champion Sid Vicious can't dominate with his size alone. WWF World champion Diesel is big, but not overly muscular. He's just a regular big man. Is the sport clean? Probably not. Is any sport clean? Undoubtedly not. But wrestling is dealing with its problems.

### 13. WHO IS WRESTLING'S BEST MANAGER?

Our insiders were extremely impressed by Jim Cornette's ability to manage The Rock 'n' Roll Express to the Smoky Mountain tag team title. "Here's a man who hated that team his entire life, but he was able to turn the cards and help them win a major title," wrote an insider. "It's just additional proof, if we needed any more, that

he knows every trick in the book. He proved his ability to change styles in an instant." Cornette was a winner for the third straight year. Support decreased dra-

matically for Harley Race, manager of Big Van Vader. "Race unnecessarily created a negative dynamic situation by agreeing to manage Steve Austin," wrote another insider. "And his inability to get Vader an earlier match with Hogan, despite Vader's status as a former world champion, shows he has lost his influence with the federation's power brokers." Votes for others included Tammy Fytch, Woman, and Mr. Fuji.

<i>Jim Cornette</i> .....	.54% (74%)
<i>Jimmy Hart</i> .....	.15% (0%)
<i>Col. Rob Parker</i> .....	.11% (0%)
<i>Harley Race</i> .....	.7% (21%)
<i>Ted DiBiase</i> .....	.6% (0%)
<i>Others</i> .....	.7% (5%)



Jimmy Hart

### 14. IF YOU COULD WATCH A CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH AT ANY VENUE, WHERE WOULD IT BE?

<i>Madison Square Garden</i> .....	.62% (71%)
<i>ECW Arena</i> .....	.19% (0%)
<i>The Tokyo Dome</i> .....	.6% (8%)
<i>Baltimore Arena</i> .....	.5% (5%)
<i>Others</i> .....	.8% (6%)

The world's most famous arena was the scene of two WWF World title changes in 1994, as Bret Hart defeated Yokozuna at WrestleMania X, and Diesel defeated Bob Backlund in late-November. The Garden, which hosted Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals, two games in the NBA Finals, and Martina Navratilova's final tennis match, added to its aura as the home of champions. No surprise that the Garden is still the place people want to see and be seen in. The surprise this year was second-place finisher ECW Arena in Philadelphia, which basically has all the aura of your average basement. ECW Arena is where ECW hosts most of its TV tapings and many live cards; it has quickly gained a reputation as the most intimidating arena in wrestling. The seats are placed close to the ring, there's barely any room between the apron and the metal barriers, and fans rarely sit down during a match. Nobody would ever hold a major title bout here, unless tickets were priced at \$1,000, merely because capacity is only about 1,000. But what a thrill it would be to see a major championship match in this environment!



The Tokyo Dome

### 15. WILL HULK HOGAN RE-RETIRE?

<i>Yes</i> .....	.69%
<i>No</i> .....	.31%

For Hogan, retiring and coming out of retirement has become an annual event. So if he came out of retirement in 1994, it makes sense that he's scheduled to retire again in 1995. Several insiders felt Big Van Vader would force Hogan into retirement by inflicting a serious injury upon him.



## 16. WILL RIC FLAIR COME OUT OF RETIREMENT?

How times have changed. Last year, we asked whether Hulk Hogan would return, and 91 percent of our insiders said yes. They were right. This year, they're saying that Ric Flair—who lost a “loser-must-retire” match to Hogan at Halloween Havoc—won't return. “Flair has too much integrity,” wrote one insider. “He agreed to something, and he's going to stick with it. Besides, I don't think he would have agreed to a retirement match if he wasn't ready to retire.”

No .....57%  
Yes .....43%

## 17. WHO IS THE BEST TELEVISION COMMENTATOR IN WRESTLING?

*Bobby Heenan* .....21% (11%)  
*Jerry Lawler* .....17% (0%)  
*Tony Schiavone* .....15% (12%)  
*Gene Okerlund* .....12% (2%)  
*Joey Styles* .....8% (0%)  
*Jim Ross* .....6% (23%)  
*Vince McMahon* .....5% (4%)  
*Others* .....16% (6%)

The weakness of this category becomes evident when you look at the whopping number of votes for others. There were several reasons for this: Jesse Ventura, last year's overwhelming winner, left WCW. Jim Ross worked for Smoky Mountain for a while, then returned to the WWF just before press time. Bobby Heenan won by a small margin, but even his supporters pointed out that Heenan's commentary is too one-sided. The same is true of Jerry Lawler. On the plus side, Heenan and Lawler are entertaining announcers who provide a unique perspective on the game. Not so for Gene Okerlund, whose pandering to WCW World champion Hulk Hogan drew tremendous criticism from our insiders. Support increased for WWF head Vince McMahon. ECW's Joey Styles is a solid rookie to watch.



Jim Ross

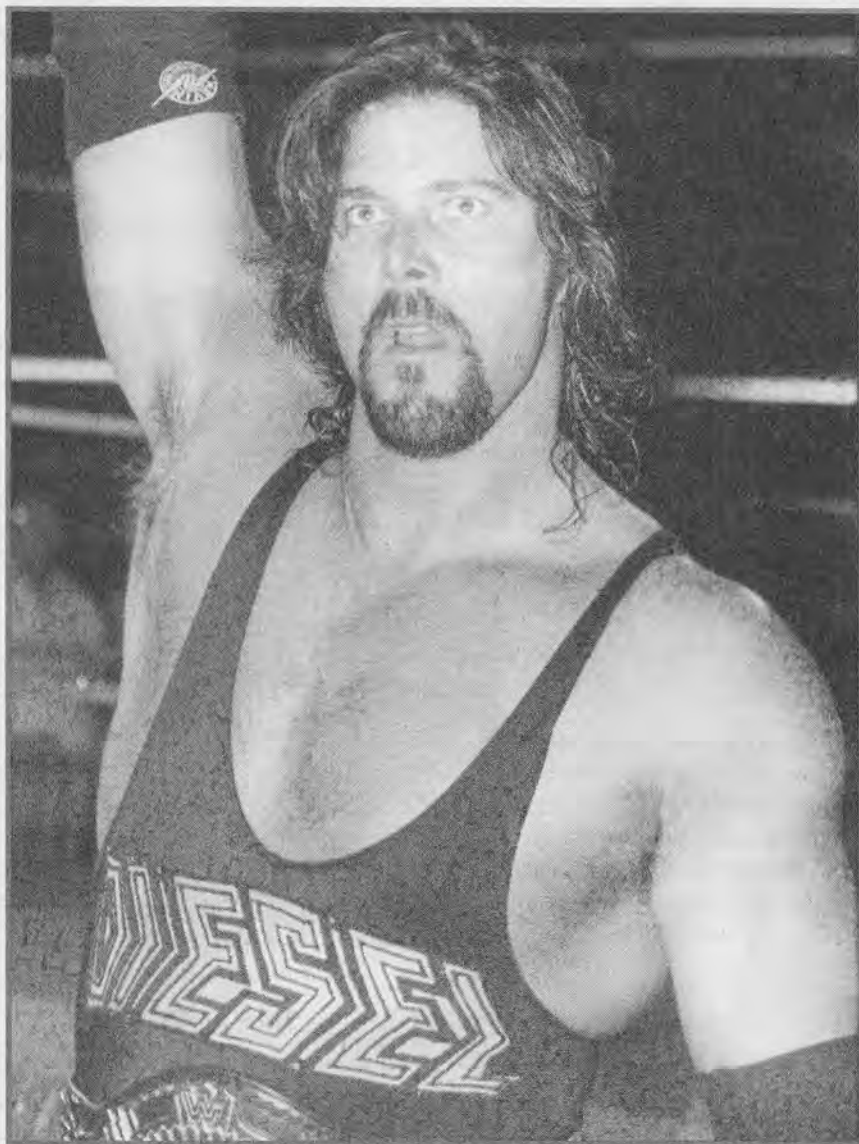
Ric Flair

## 18. WILL WE SEE A WWF WORLD CHAMPION VS. WCW WORLD CHAMPION MATCH WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR?

The gulf between WCW and the WWF, which one insider wrote about last year, has grown larger, not smaller, with WCW's raiding of old WWF talent. The WWF and WCW still hate each other; any progress toward a mutual agreement was eliminated in a contentious 1994. We'll probably never see the WWF and WCW get together. “On the plus side,” one insider wrote, “the WWF would probably be more receptive to an interfederation match than it had been in the past. Now it's WCW that doesn't want any part of it.”

No .....99% (94%)  
Yes .....1% (6%)

## 19. ARE THE BEST OF TODAY'S WRESTLERS AS GOOD AS THE BEST OF 40 YEARS AGO?



*Diesel*

*Yes* .....65% (68%)  
*No* .....35% (32%)

Not much change from last year, with support for the wrestlers of yesteryear increasing only slightly, probably because of the decreased depth in the tag team pool. Ric Flair's retirement also hurt today's wrestlers. But Sabu, Alex Wright, Aldo Montoya, and The Kid keep proving that technical excellence is alive and well, even in the age of Diesel, Hulk Hogan, and Sid Vicious. These days, even big men can jump!

## 21. WOULD YOU GAUGE THE GENERAL PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF WRESTLING AS POOR, MEDIOCRE, GOOD, OR EXCELLENT?

*Poor* .....39% (53%)  
*Mediocre* .....37% (27%)  
*Good* .....22% (19%)  
*Excellent* .....2% (1%)

## 20. WOULD YOU DESCRIBE MAINSTREAM MEDIA COVERAGE OF WRESTLING AS POOR, MEDIOCRE, GOOD, OR EXCELLENT?

Hulk Hogan returned to the ring and won the WCW World title, Ric Flair retired, Diesel won the WWF World title from Bob Backlund, and morning TV talk shows were the only members of the mainstream media that paid the slightest bit of attention to these important events. Vince McMahon's indictment was big news in the daily newspapers, so why wasn't his acquittal equally big news? Without a big fish to fry and fry again, the mainstream media generally ignored wrestling in 1994. Too bad. At least wrestlers wrestled. That's more than baseball and hockey players could say.

*Poor* .....98%  
*Mediocre* .....2%

Favorable appearances in court and the favorable emergence of Diesel as WWF World champion and Hulk Hogan as WCW World champion helped the sport's general image in 1994. Although the glory years of the mid-1980s are long gone, and might never be relived, wrestling is starting to settle into a comfortable run as an entertaining, often thrilling sport that is the choice of many people for an evening's entertainment. Perhaps the labor disputes in hockey and baseball forced many people to look elsewhere; they rediscovered wrestling and liked what they saw.



## 22. GIVE A LETTER GRADE TO WWF PRESIDENT JACK TUNNEY FOR HIS PERFORMANCE: A, B, C, D, OR F

Middle-of-the-road marks in a relatively quiet year for Tunney, who didn't have to make too many difficult decisions. Perhaps he could have overturned Bob Backlund's victory over Bret Hart at Survivor Series and ruled that Helen Hart didn't have the right to throw in the towel for her son, but Bret never asked for a ruling. He acted properly by putting the WWF World tag team title up for grabs in a tournament when Diesel and Shawn Michaels broke up. Tunney received 32 percent high marks (A or B), compared to 34 percent last year, and 38 percent low marks (D or F), compared to 32 percent last year. Not bad. Tunney is, as usual, an average arbiter.

C .....	30% (34%)
D .....	28% (28%)
B .....	22% (30%)
A .....	10% (4%)
F .....	10% (4%)

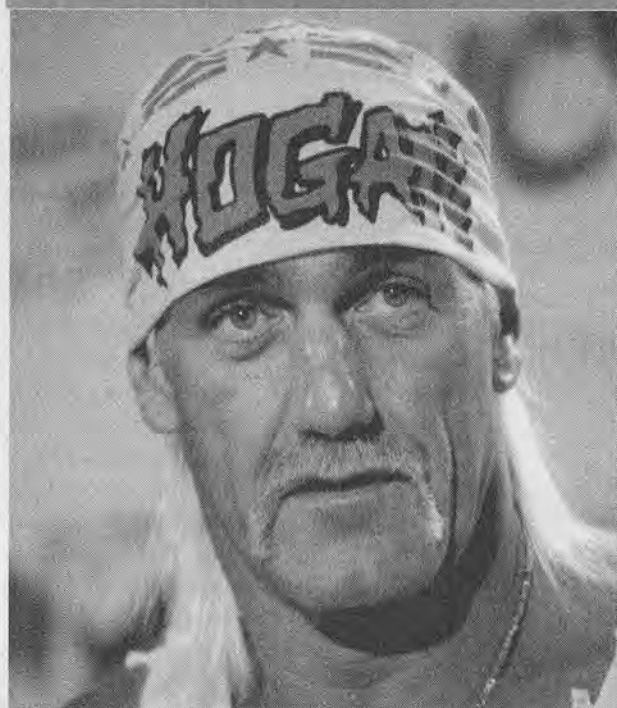
## 23. GIVE A LETTER GRADE TO WCW COMMISSIONER NICK BOCKWINKEL FOR HIS PERFORMANCE: A, B, C, D, OR F

According to our insiders, Bockwinkel didn't have a very good first year. They were especially critical of the way he handled the Flair-Sherri-Hogan situation, when Bockwinkel suspended Flair, but allowed him to wrestle Hogan on WCW's European tour. Many insiders also felt Bockwinkel allowed Hogan to take over the federation and pick and choose his opponents. "Hogan should have been forced to wrestle Vader, and Bockwinkel should have been the man who forced him to do it," one insider wrote. Some of our insiders, most of whom gave Bockwinkel a C, felt the jury is still out on Commissioner Nick.

D .....	33%
C .....	30%
B .....	25%
F .....	7%
A .....	5%



Nick Bockwinkel



Hulk Hogan

## 24. WHO IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN IN WRESTLING?

Hulk Hogan .....	62%
Vince McMahon .....	33%
Ted Turner .....	3%
Others .....	2%

Surprised? We weren't. Hogan, by his mere presence, can dictate the way a federation is run. His arrival in WCW was cause for parades, press conferences, and successful pay-per-view events. He held off challenges from Ric Flair and Brutus Beefcake and made Big Van Vader blind with anger. Hogan is neither judge nor jury, but like many great trial lawyers in a courtroom, he can take over a federation. He did in 1995, and pushed federation owners McMahon and Turner into the background.

## 25. WHICH IS THE BEST WEEKLY WRESTLING SHOW ON TV?

Although support for *WWF Monday Night Raw* dropped slightly, you'll notice that support for WWF programming totaled 84 percent, the same as last year. *Raw*, now two years old, moved out of the Manhattan Center, but kept finding cozy venues throughout the United States. The *Raw* road show has become a top attraction in cities throughout the U.S., and the live Monday night broadcasts are must-see programs for all wrestling fans; titles often change hands at *Raw*, as the WWF World tag team title did on the day after the Royal Rumble. We're surprised WCW, which over the past year robbed just about everything else from the WWF, hasn't copied the *Raw* format. Support for others included ECW's weekly broadcast, which is always packed with action, violence, and those crazy ECW fans. It's good television.

<i>WWF Monday Night Raw</i>	..80% (84%)
<i>WCW Saturday Night</i>	.....8% (8%)
<i>WWF Action Zone</i>	.....4% (0%)
<i>Others</i>	.....8% (8%)

## 26. WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP IN NORTH AMERICA?

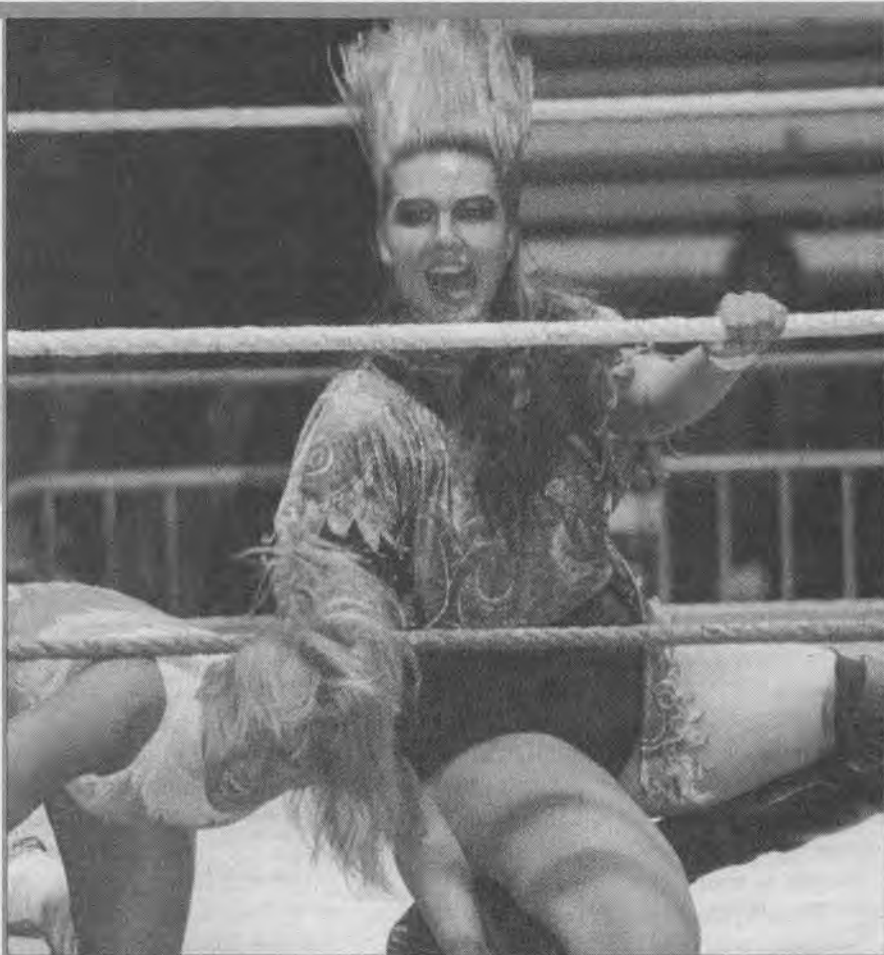
The balance of power shifted over the past year, with Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan wearing the WCW World title and the relatively disrespected Diesel and Bob Backlund (along with Bret Hart) claiming the WWF World belt. Never forget that the champion makes the championship. "The belt itself is meaningless. The federation is meaningless," wrote one insider. "If Flair and Hogan were in ECW, then the ECW title would suddenly become the most important championship in the world. If Tony Anthony or Italian Stallion were the WCW World champion, nobody would care. It's all a matter of wrestler quality." Add the current talent pool to WCW's history of champions, which (given the implicit NWA lineage) includes Buddy Rogers, Lou Thesz, and Harley Race, and you have a title worth fighting for.

<i>WCW World</i>	.....59% (51%)
<i>WWF World</i>	.....41% (49%)

## 27. HAVE BULL NAKANO AND ALUNDRA BLAYZE SUCCEEDED IN REJUVENATING WOMEN'S WRESTLING IN NORTH AMERICA?

<i>No</i>	.....74%
<i>Yes</i>	.....23%
<i>Too soon to tell</i>	.....3%

Bull Nakano vs. Alundra Blayze was one of wrestling's hottest feuds in 1994, and everybody noticed. Fans actually paid to see Nakano vs. Blayze and stayed in their seats for these action-filled matches. But Nakano vs. Blayze was often the only entree on the menu, and our insiders felt it only fueled interest in Nakano vs. Blayze, not women's wrestling in general. "The talent pool of capable female wrestlers is very shallow right now," wrote one insider. "Alundra and Bull didn't pull anybody out of the woodwork, and that's too bad."



*Bull Nakano vs. Alundra Blayze*



## 28. WHO IS WRESTLING'S BEST BRAWLER?

<i>Big Van Vader</i> .....	.53%
<i>Cactus Jack</i> .....	.21%
<i>Sabu</i> .....	.11%
<i>Terry Funk</i> .....	.6%
<i>King Kong Bundy</i> .....	.4%
<i>Kevin Sullivan</i> .....	.3%
<i>Others</i> .....	.2%

**V**ader, the man who has injured more men than any other wrestler in the world, received strong support from our intimidated insiders. Although Vader is a capable all-around wrestler, he's absolutely best at brawling and particularly deadly when he corners an opponent. Cactus Jack, often a victim of Vader, showed off his brawling skills against Vader and in several falls-count-anywhere tag team matches. Jack is a pure brawler who would run into a brick wall if it helped him win a match. Sabu's not too shabby, either.

## 31. WHICH IS THE BEST INDEPENDENT FEDERATION IN NORTH AMERICA?

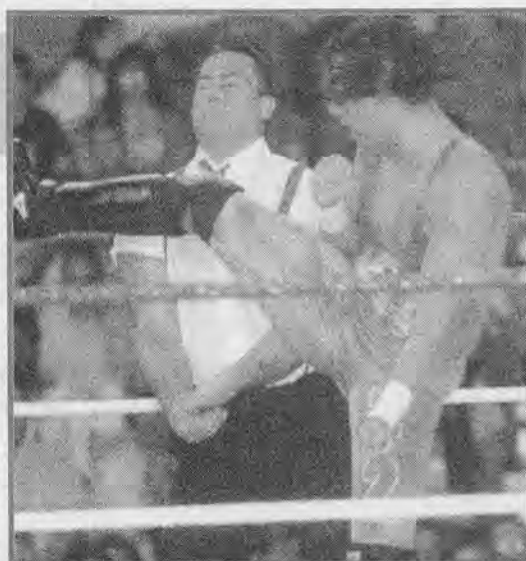
<i>ECW</i> .....	.48%
<i>Smoky Mountain</i> .....	.22%
<i>USWA</i> .....	.17%
<i>Others</i> .....	.13%

**W**idespread support for the three most popular independent federations in North America, with a relative newcomer, ECW, outpolling the mainstay, the USWA, as well as Smoky Mountain. Our respondents praised all three federations for providing fans with high-intensity action and entertainment and for providing many of today's rising stars with a place to show off their talents. The USWA, which has a working relationship with the WWF, has hosted superstars such as Lex Luger, Mabel,

## 29. WHO IS WRESTLING'S FASTEST MAN?

<i>Sabu</i> .....	.54%
<i>The Kid</i> .....	.43%
<i>Others</i> .....	.3%

**S**abu can do just about anything, including move around the ring at the speed of lightning and dizzy his poor opponents. He's fast with his hands and feet, and he's especially quick at stringing together one aerial move after another. Just about everybody else supported The Kid, who wouldn't have risen so high in the WWF if he wasn't fast enough to get away from larger rivals.



*The Kid kicks Irwin R. Schyster*

## 30. DOES THE ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP POSE A THREAT TO PRO WRESTLING?

<i>No</i> .....	.83%
<i>Yes</i> .....	.17%

**A**re our insiders wearing blinders, or do they honestly believe that the strong pay-per-view buy rates Ultimate Fighting Championship IV compiled do not represent a threat to wrestling? Although UFC IV didn't approach Flair-Hogan in terms of pay-per-view success, it did show a meaningful increase in viewership over previous events. The ultra-violent UFC IV made up for in action what it lacked in glitz. "They have a lot of loose edges that keep them from being attractive to the mainstream public," wrote one insider. "They're basically dealing with a fringe audience. To attract the mainstream audience these days, you have to have a slicker product. It's something they lack, and I'm not sure they have the financial backing to make up for it." Wrote another insider, who sees UFC as a threat, "I think when you look closely, you see that their audience is made up of young people who play ultra-violent video games and frustrated wrestling fans who want more action. Obviously, we're talking about a very large audience. I think wrestling promoters have to respect the Ultimate Fighting Championship people."



*Ultimate Fighting Championship IV: Royce Gracie kicks Dan Severn*

Adam Bomb, and The Undertaker over the past year, in addition to regulars Jerry Lawler, Sid Vicious, Tommy Rich, and Brian Christopher. "Let's not forget that this is the federation that gave the WWF Lawler and Jarrett," one insider wrote. "No federation develops more top talent." Several respondents criticized ECW for emphasizing gore over

wrestling. SMW was praised by one respondent for its "entertaining feuds, action-packed matches, and quality talent pool. You're talking about an indy with The Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Gangstas, The Heavenly Bodies, Jim Cornette, Tony Anthony, Cactus Jack, Chris Candido, and Tammy Fytch. That's pretty good."

## 32. WHO GIVES THE BEST INTERVIEWS?

No other sport relies as much on interviews as a part of the complete entertainment package. In most sports, in fact, athletes give meaningless interviews in which they say nothing—"We're just taking things one game at a time"—and go out of their way to avoid insulting an opponent ("He's a great player, and I have a world of respect for him."). Wrestling is the only sport in which interviews matter. They're part of a wrestler's strategy. Present a one-hour wrestling TV show with 30 minutes of interviews and 30 minutes of matches, and most people would say you have the perfect mix. The voting was widespread in this category, with Big Van Vader earning a slight edge over Shawn Michaels. "Vader is better than anybody at sending a message to his opponent," one insider wrote. "With Vader, the intimidation begins with the interview." Michaels and Lawler are funny, insightful, and insulting in their interviews. Owen Hart and Bob Backlund great at expressing their hatred in fascinating tirades.

<i>Big Van Vader</i> .....	20%
<i>Shawn Michaels</i> .....	18%
<i>Jerry Lawler</i> .....	15%
<i>Owen Hart</i> .....	14%
<i>Bob Backlund</i> .....	13%
<i>Others</i> .....	20%

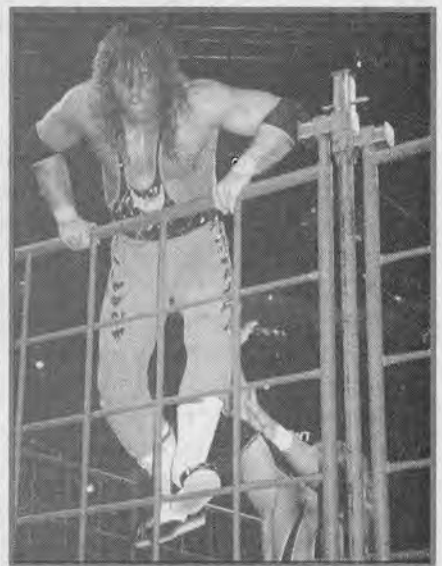


*Bob Backlund*

## 33. WHICH IS THE BEST SPECIALTY MATCH?

<i>Steel cage</i> .....	17%
<i>Barbed-wire</i> .....	15%
<i>Chain</i> .....	14%
<i>"I Quit"</i> .....	12%
<i>Texas death</i> .....	8%
<i>Others</i> .....	34%

We found that our insiders weren't thrilled with this question. Very few supplied comments with their responses, making it clear that specialty matches are for the fans, not the wrestlers, promoters, writers, referees, or other insiders. Steel cage matches, which are always dangerous, are the oldest form of specialty match and, not surprisingly, won by a slight margin over the violent, bloody barbed-wire matches.



*Bret vs. Owen inside a cage*

## 34. WHO IS THE BEST FOREIGN WRESTLER?

We felt comfortable asking this question because most insiders are familiar with the international wrestling scene, especially Japan, and are capable of judging the best wrestlers. The Great Muta, a success in both North America and Japan, might be the best all-around wrestler in the world. He won by a slight margin over Triple Crown champion Toshiaki Kawada (who in October beat Steve Williams in Tokyo) and IWGP champion Shinya Hashimoto. Bull Nakano, perhaps the best female wrestler in the world, received marginal support. Votes for others included the injured Jushin Liger, Tatsumi Fujinami, Perro Aguayo, and Masanobu Fuchi.

<i>The Great Muta</i> .....	22%
<i>Toshiaki Kawada</i> .....	20%
<i>Shinya Hashimoto</i> .....	18%
<i>Konnan</i> .....	10%
<i>Bull Nakano</i> .....	5%
<i>Others</i> .....	25%



*The Great Muta*



## 35. WHO IS THE BEST FOREIGN WRESTLER CURRENTLY WRESTLING IN NORTH AMERICA?



Sabu

<i>Sabu</i> .....	41%
<i>Davey Boy Smith</i> .....	26%
<i>Lord Steven Regal</i> .....	12%
<i>Yokozuna</i> .....	7%
<i>Others</i> .....	14%

British athletes might be having a tough time in soccer, cricket, and tennis, but they're alive and well in pro wrestling, especially in North America. British-born stars Davey Boy Smith and Lord Steven Regal have had great success in North America and, after Sabu, were the clear choices. Votes for others spanned 15 wrestlers.

## 36. WHICH WAS THE BEST PAY-PER-VIEW EVENT OF THE PAST YEAR?

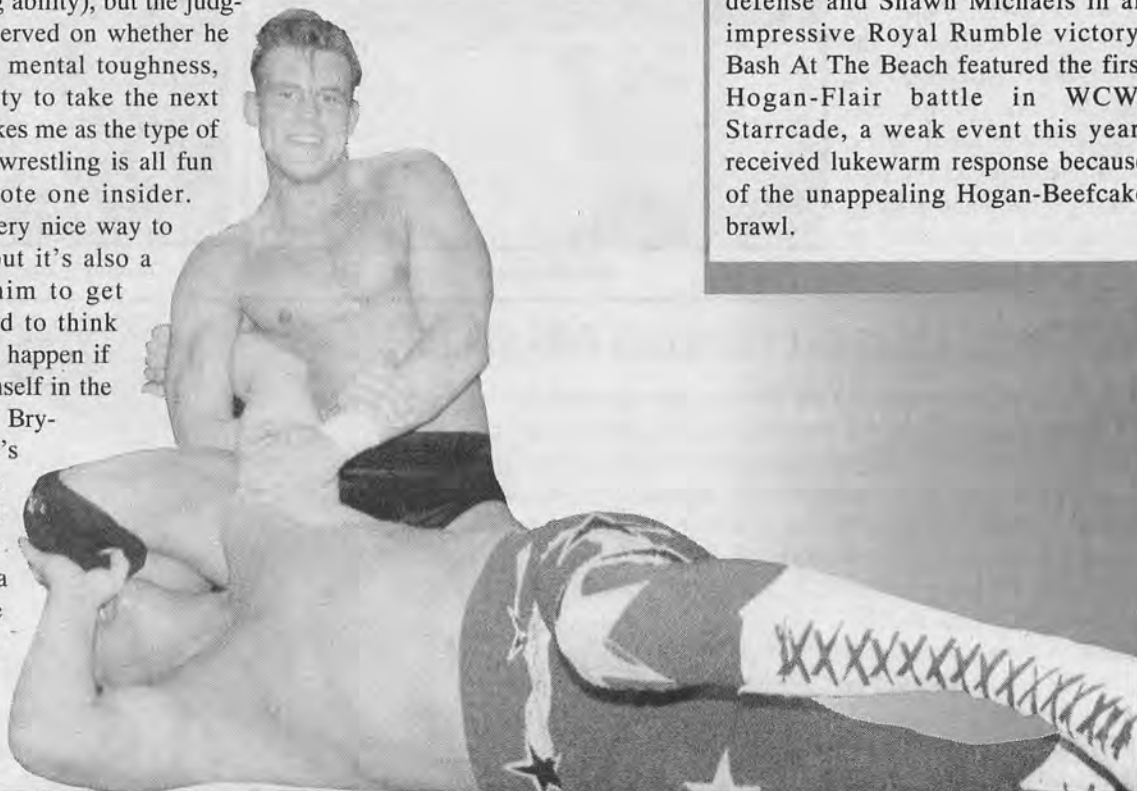
<i>WrestleMania X</i> .....	25%
<i>Halloween Havoc</i> .....	23%
<i>Royal Rumble</i> .....	21%
<i>Bash At The Beach</i> .....	12%
<i>Starrcade</i> .....	9%
<i>Others</i> .....	10%

The insiders showed they have good memories by voting *WrestleMania X* the best of the best. The anniversary card at Madison Square Garden featured two WWF World title defenses (Yokozuna vs. Lex Luger and Yokozuna vs. Bret Hart) and the Match of the Year, a titanic ladder match between Shawn Michaels and Razor Ramon. Good choice. *Halloween Havoc's* appeal was in one match: the "loser-must-retire" battle between Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan. The *Royal Rumble* had Diesel vs. Bret Hart in a classic WWF World title defense and Shawn Michaels in an impressive *Royal Rumble* victory. *Bash At The Beach* featured the first Hogan-Flair battle in WCW. *Starrcade*, a weak event this year, received lukewarm response because of the unappealing Hogan-Beefcake brawl.

## 37. WHO IS WRESTLING'S BEST NEW HOT PROSPECT?

Although wrestling has a lot of hot young stars, it doesn't have many hot new stars. Newcomer Alex Wright has impressed our insiders with his aerial skills (and female fans with his good looks and dancing ability), but the judgment must be reserved on whether he has the stamina, mental toughness, and overall ability to take the next step. "Wright strikes me as the type of man who thinks wrestling is all fun and games," wrote one insider. "Well, that's a very nice way to look at things, but it's also a good way for him to get killed. I'm afraid to think about what might happen if Wright found himself in the ring with Vader." Bryant Anderson, Ole's son, has great genes. "And if he's half as tough as his father, he'll go a long way," wrote one respondent. Jean-Paul LeVeque lost to Wright at *Starrcade '94*.

<i>Alex Wright</i> .....	23%
<i>Bryant Anderson</i> .....	18%
<i>Jean-Paul LeVeque</i> .....	17%
<i>Osamu Nishimura</i> .....	9%
<i>Others</i> .....	33%



## FINISHING IT OFF: WHO HAS THE BEST OF THE BEST?

In the June 1994 issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, we presented our second "Best Of The Best" poll. It was a comprehensive study of wrestling's most awesome finishing moves and the men who use them. The ratings were based on how often a wrestler's particular finishing move or hold actually ends a match in his favor. The results are based on the following straightforward questions. Several holds and moves ranked last year (figure-four, DDT, flying fistdrop, sleeperhold) were not included in this year's poll, while a few new ones were added.

### 38. WHO HAS THE BEST CLOTHESLINE?

Wrestling analysts point out that the clothesline is tailor-made for the rules of the sport. "It's one of those moves that has devastating effect for about five seconds, but quickly wears off once a wrestler regains his wind," one insider wrote. "But, of course, five seconds is nearly enough time to score two pins, let alone one." The clothesline is an awesome power move that has been used to best advantage by Rick Steiner. Hulk Hogan returned to the ring and nearly moved to the top of the ballot. Irwin R. Schyster performs his clothesline with a running start off the ropes, adding to its effectiveness. Look for I.R.S. to make great gains in next year's poll.

<i>Rick Steiner</i> .....	27% (26%)
<i>Hulk Hogan</i> .....	26% (3%)
<i>Irwin R. Schyster</i> .....	22% (2%)
<i>Lex Luger</i> .....	18% (2%)
<i>Others</i> .....	7% (14%)



*Rick Steiner's clothesline*

### 40. WHO HAS THE BEST ELBOWSMASH?

For those who keep their fingernails and toenails trimmed, the elbow is the sharpest part of the human body. Bang into an elbow in a crowd and you'll feel a little pain. But when that elbow is attached to a body being launched from a height of 10 feet, it has a particularly devastating impact. Randy Savage's flying elbowsmash is legendary for its effectiveness. Diesel parlayed his (and the "jackknife" power bomb) into a potent combination. Dustin Rhodes, who had a tough year, dropped from last year's top spot.

<i>Randy Savage</i> .....	30% (33%)
<i>Diesel</i> .....	28% (0%)
<i>Dustin Rhodes</i> .....	20% (36%)
<i>Brian Knobs</i> .....	10% (2%)
<i>Others</i> .....	12% (11%)

### 39. WHO HAS THE BEST DROPKICK?

The dropkick returned to prominence in 1994 with The Kid using his from all angles and all spots, and 2 Cold Scorpio continuing to use the dropkick as a potent maneuver. Of course, we haven't returned to the past, when just about every wrestler used the dropkick. These days, The Kid uses dropkick combinations—one after another, rapid-fire—to wear down opponents. He won by a slight margin over Scorpio, who also connects at a high rate.

<i>The Kid</i> .....	33% (11%)
<i>2 Cold Scorpio</i> .....	31% (39%)
<i>Jeff Jarrett</i> .....	15% (3%)
<i>Owen Hart</i> .....	12% (5%)

### 41. WHO HAS THE BEST LEGDROP?

<i>Hulk Hogan</i> .....	68% (12%)
<i>Yokozuna</i> .....	11% (32%)
<i>Sabu</i> .....	9% (2%)
<i>The Patriot</i> .....	6% (18%)
<i>Others</i> .....	6% (7%)

He's back. Even last year, when he was semi-retired, Hogan received strong support in this category. Now that he's back in the ring, and using the leg-drop as his only finishing maneuver, Hogan received overwhelming support, as well he should have. "You're talking about the finishing maneuver that took him to a ton of titles," one insider wrote. "It must be pretty good." Yokozuna won in this category last year, but he lost the WWF World title at WrestleMania X and spent the last months of 1994 on the sidelines. Still, at 568 pounds, Yokozuna can put a lot of force behind this devastating, punishing move.



## 42. WHO HAS THE BEST FLYING BODYPRESS?

<i>2 Cold Scorpio</i> .....	22% (7%)
<i>Owen Hart</i> .....	20% (3%)
<i>The Kid</i> .....	18% (25%)
<i>Brian Pillman</i> .....	15% (19%)
<i>Others</i> .....	25% (17%)

Wrestling's most graceful aerial maneuver looks absolutely beautiful when 2 Cold Scorpio soars through the air. "He has perfect form," wrote one insider. "Who cares about the impact when the package looks so great?" Owen Hart was the subject of so much dislike that some people forgot about his great aerial skills. He is, after all, "The Rocket." "When Owen executes his flying bodypress, he really does look like a rocket," wrote one respondent.



Brian Pillman

## 43. WHO HAS THE BEST PILEDRIIVER?

<i>The Undertaker</i> .....	79% (84%)
<i>Jerry Lawler</i> .....	12% (13%)
<i>Shawn Michaels</i> .....	9% (0%)

The Undertaker's "tombstone" piledriver is still the piledriver by which all others must be judged. Until Undertaker came along, it was widely agreed that Jerry Lawler had the best piledriver in the sport. But Lawler's getting older, and Undertaker is getting more devastating. Recover from his "tombstone" and you really have come back from the dead. Shawn Michaels, known mainly for his scientific skills, showed a little killer instinct in 1994. Maybe that's why he's on the verge of becoming a world champion.



The Undertaker's "tombstone" piledriver

## 45. WHO HAS THE BEST POWERSLAM?

<i>Davey Boy Smith</i> .....	32% (0%)
<i>Steve Williams</i> .....	31% (39%)
<i>Razor Ramon</i> .....	18% (41%)
<i>Ron Simmons</i> .....	9% (10%)
<i>Lex Luger</i> .....	8% (2%)
<i>Others</i> .....	2% (5%)

Well, most of our insiders finally got it right. Last year, we admonished them for confusing the powerslam with the power bomb; they voted for Big Van Vader, who doesn't have a powerslam. Steve Williams was a bridesmaid for the second consecutive year. Impressive showing for "Dr. Death," who rarely competes in the U.S. Davey Boy Smith seemingly impressed everybody this year and had a strong showing in several categories. Yes, he has a powerslam.

## 44. WHO HAS THE BEST SAVATE KICK?

Many wrestlers use the savate kick, a martial arts move, but few use it like Shawn Michaels and Sabu. Sabu, last year's runaway winner, still uses the savate in groups of three and four. Shawn Michaels has been working on the savate kick for a long time and unleashed it upon defenseless, slow-moving opponents in 1994.

<i>Shawn Michaels</i> .....	41% (4%)
<i>Sabu</i> .....	35% (65%)
<i>Kwang</i> .....	10% (0%)
<i>Others</i> .....	14% (10%)

## 46. WHO HAS THE BEST MOONSAULT?

The most exciting and popular move in wrestling was made even more exciting by Sabu, who continues to invent dangerous variations of his signature maneuver. Willing to perform it from any spot in the arena or onto any surface, Sabu is a daredevil who puts everything he has into each terrific moonsault. Big Van Vader has quite a moonsault for a big man. The Kid keeps on coming up with moonsault variations. Al Snow went moonsault vs. moonsault against Sabu on independent cards all over the country.

<i>Sabu</i>	.....57% (54%)
<i>Big Van Vader</i>	.....14% (7%)
<i>Al Snow</i>	.....12% (0%)
<i>The Kid</i>	.....11% (4%)
<i>2 Cold Scorpio</i>	.....5% (0%)
<i>Others</i>	.....1% (2%)

## 47. WHO HAS THE BEST SCORPION DEATHLOCK?

Owen Hart gained ground and took votes away from his brother in the battle of the "sharpshooters," but we're really not sure where our insiders were coming from. Didn't Bret dominate their matches? Didn't Owen prove in 1994 that he's a distant second to "The Hitman"? If anything, the effectiveness of Bret's "sharpshooter" was verified over the past year. We don't understand. Neither do the numerous wrestlers who still have pulled muscles and swollen kneecaps as a result of Bret's "sharpshooter."

<i>Bret Hart</i>	.....68% (89%)
<i>Owen Hart</i>	.....20% (3%)
<i>Sting</i>	.....6% (5%)
<i>Others</i>	.....6% (3%)

## 48. WHO HAS THE BEST VERTICAL SUPLEX?

Is Davey Boy Smith the best overall wrestler in the world? You'd certainly think so by looking at the results of the "Best Of The Best." Smith's vertical suplex—it's like suddenly finding yourself on the scariest amusement park ride in the world when you thought you were in a wrestling match—is even more effective because Davey Boy has so many other weapons in his arsenal. Owen Hart, who rarely got to try his vertical suplex on brother Bret, fell sharply in the rankings after winning last year. Tasmaniac, the self-proclaimed "Master Of The Suplex," is the master in terms of variety (particularly the snap-suplex), but not when it comes to this one finishing maneuver.

<i>Davey Boy Smith</i>	.....36% (0%)
<i>Lex Luger</i>	.....25% (22%)
<i>Steve Austin</i>	.....20% (8%)
<i>Owen Hart</i>	.....8% (1%)
<i>Tasmaniac</i>	.....7% (0%)
<i>Others</i>	.....4% (3%)

## 49. WHO HAS THE BEST POWER BOMB?

Wouldn't you love to see Vader vs. Diesel in a battle of the power bombs? How about a competition in which they took turns power-bombing each other? "Whoever went first would win, because the other wouldn't be able to continue," wrote one insider who rhetorically suggested this competition. Both Diesel and Vader have ridden their power bombs—Diesel calls his a "jackknife"—to world titles, Diesel in the WWF, Vader in WCW. The difference: Diesel uses his to win matches; Vader uses his to hurt people, which in turn wins matches. "Vader's has a lot more gusto behind it," one insider wrote. "But let's see what happens if Diesel ever gets Michaels into position for a 'jackknife.' Then we'll see his idea of gusto."

<i>Big Van Vader</i>	.....52% (90%)
<i>Diesel</i>	.....46% (0%)
<i>Others</i>	.....2% (2%)

## 50. WHO HAS THE BEST OVERALL FINISHER?

<i>Big Van Vader</i> (power bomb)	.....28%
<i>Diesel</i> (power bomb)	.....24%
<i>911</i> (choke-slam)	.....18%
<i>Bob Backlund</i> (chicken wing)	.....13%
<i>Hulk Hogan</i> (legdrop)	.....12%
<i>Others</i>	.....5%

Support for Vader slipped as he failed to regain the WCW World title in 1994, although he won the U.S. title from Hacksaw Duggan. The incident at Clash of the Champions XXX in Las Vegas, when Vader's power bomb had little effect on Hulk Hogan, had little effect on this question, as



911's choke-slam

most ballots had been returned by then. Diesel's "jackknife" was parlayed into a WWF World title. Nobody has ever recovered from 911's choke-slam. Backlund's chicken wing was converted into a WWF World title. Hogan's legdrop still rules. □



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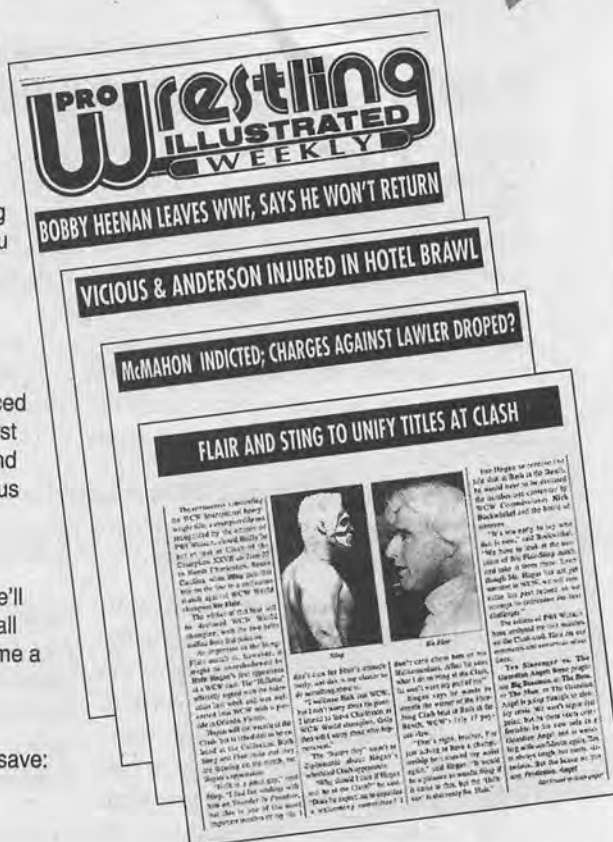
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# THE STEINERS

## ARE BACK!

BUT ARE  
THEY AS  
TOUGH AS  
THEY  
USED  
TO  
BE?

QUESTIONS ALWAYS  
ARISE WHEN A  
WRESTLER OR  
TAG TEAM  
RETURNS  
AFTER A LONG  
ABSENCE. IN  
THEIR CASE,  
RICK AND  
SCOTT STEINER  
ARE READY  
TO SUPPLY  
SOME  
ANSWERS

By Dave Rosenbaum

**M**ICHAEL HAYES ROLLED up a worn pair of blue jeans, turned his back to the reporter, and pointed to a spot on his upper calf. There was a small scar there, surrounded by a discoloration that was only visible on close examination.

But Hayes was able to name

Photos by Koichi Yoshizawa



the time, date, and place where he suffered this minor injury.

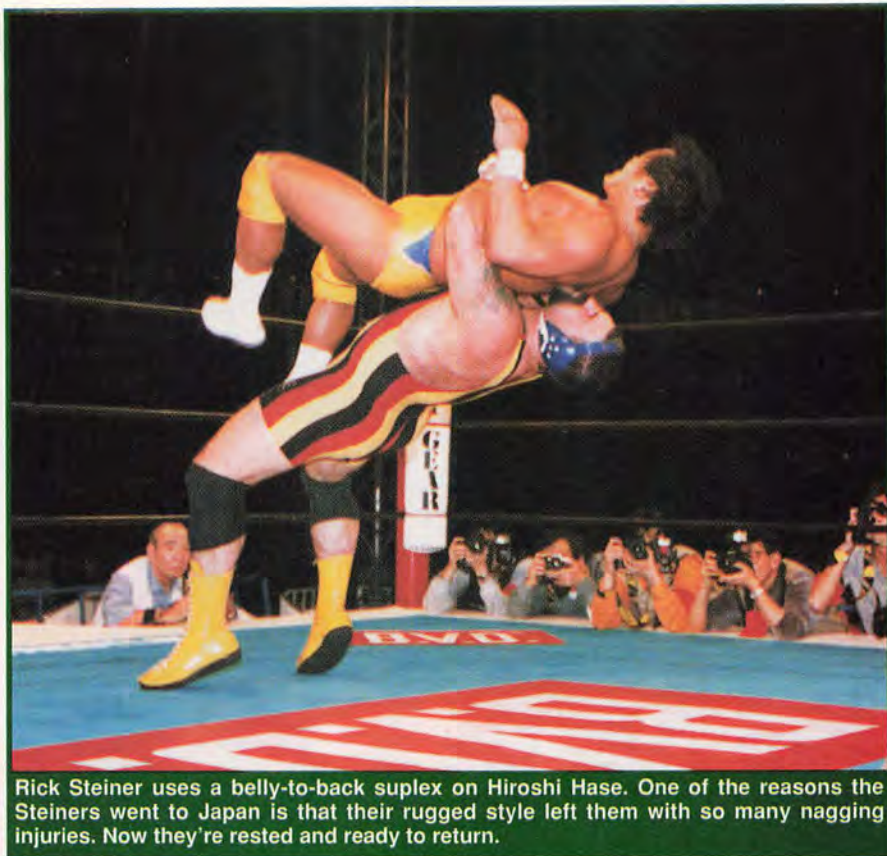
"I know it happened in February of 1991 in Montgomery, Alabama, because that was one of the few times in my life that I didn't go out partying after a match," Hayes said. Then he chuckled. "I'm not saying I didn't have a few drinks that night," Hayes added. "No way. In fact, me and Jack Daniels had a very good relationship after that match. Good way to get rid of the pain."

Hayes recalled, without satisfaction, that on February 18, 1991, Rick and Scott Steiner didn't merely beat him and Jimmy Garvin for the WCW World tag team title.

"Let me put it this way: We all whipped each other's butts, and they came out on top," Hayes said. "They hurt us, and you'd better believe we got our shots in, but the Steiners were one of the few teams that could walk down Badstreet with us and still be standing when they turned the corner."

Larry Zbyszko, now a part-time wrestler, has similar memories of the Steiner brothers.

"Scott's the kind of wrestler who has to be on the brink of death before he'll agree to sit out a match, and Rick won't stop until he isn't breathing," said Zbyszko, who



Rick Steiner uses a belly-to-back suplex on Hiroshi Hase. One of the reasons the Steiners went to Japan is that their rugged style left them with so many nagging injuries. Now they're rested and ready to return.

teamed with Arn Anderson to defeat Rick Steiner and Bill Kazmaier, Scott's replacement, in a tournament final for the WCW World tag team belts in September 1991, shortly after the Steiners were forced to vacate the title. "Let me tell you something: I was shocked when Scott had to give up

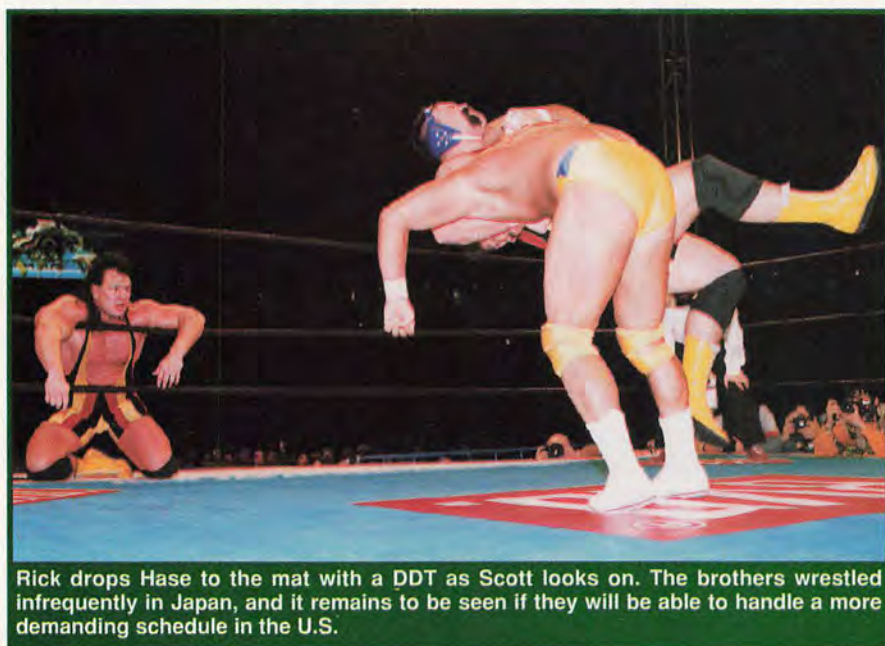
the belt. I figured he'd take that thing to his grave."

Scott was sidelined with a torn left bicep, one of the many injuries that have sidetracked the Steiners. But eight months later, Scott, still hurting and taking medication to ease the pain, teamed with his brother to regain the belts. Later that year, with both men still hurting, Rick and Scott lost the title and signed with the WWF.

The lesson to be learned from these stories is that anyone who plans to wrestle the brothers Steiner better be ready to make a few sacrifices. Now, after a long hiatus during which Rick and Scott wrestled infrequently in Japan, the Steiners are about to return to WCW. At press time, it was all but certain that they were going to sign with the federation.

But has the layoff made the Steiners lazy? And can they regain their killer instinct in America after having been out of the fold for so long?

Well, not many people are bet-



Rick drops Hase to the mat with a DDT as Scott looks on. The brothers wrestled infrequently in Japan, and it remains to be seen if they will be able to handle a more demanding schedule in the U.S.





Scott Steiner has an array of punishing suplexes, including one of the belly-to-belly variety that he perfected in the Orient. Scott says he and his brother picked up a lot of new moves in Japan.

rest of their lives."

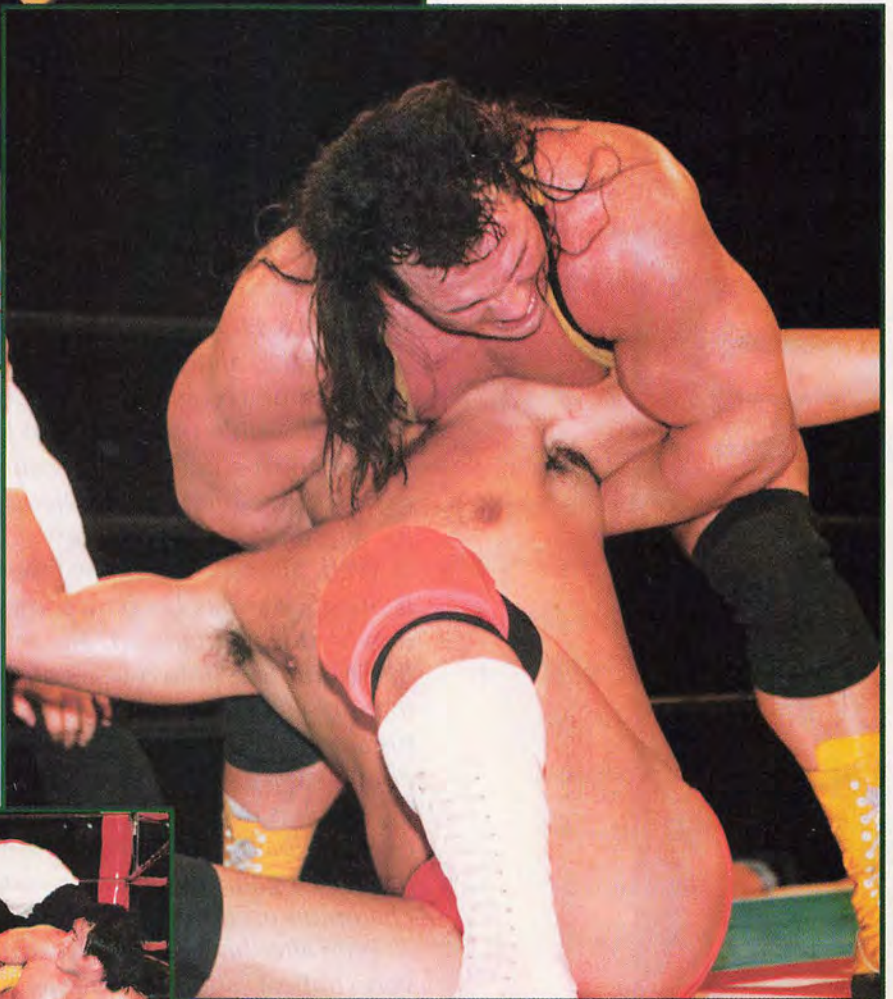
Few tag teams take more risks and have been injured more frequently than Rick and Scott, who wrestle like football players without protective equipment. Scott's thundering suplexes and "Frankensteiners" destroy opponents, but take their toll on his body, too. When Rick gets down into a three-point stance and barrels into an opponent, his shoulder absorbs much of the impact. His clothesline is perhaps the most devastating in all of wrestling.

"Yeah, we've been hurt lots of times, but we keep bouncing back,

*(Continued on page 68)*

ting against them.

"There are so many good teams in WCW right now, but I think the Steiners will be a match for any one of them," Zbyszko said. "People who wonder whether the Steiners can regain their killer instinct just don't know those two guys. They live for wrestling. They didn't take a vacation because they were sick of wrestling, they did it because it was either that or wrestle crippled for the



One of Scott's greatest assets is his intensity, which he showed in applying an armlock on The Great Muta (above) and later withstanding the pain of Muta's leglock (left). But sometimes he can be too intense for his own good.





# press conference...

# STING



Sting has proved himself the better man in a feud with Avalanche, but is intent on winning another world championship or two in the near future. He says he won't go through Hulk Hogan to do it, however.

**H**ULK HOGAN'S ARRIVAL in WCW has been extremely beneficial to almost everyone with whom he has come in contact. His name recognition has allowed WCW to supplant the WWF as the most visible promotion and has caused a chain reaction of personnel moves affecting the entire sport. Like him or not, Hogan's return to wrestling and his victory for the WCW World title were good for wrestling, and everybody close to him.

Well, almost everybody. One who hasn't felt the positive spillover is Sting, who has become somewhat of a forgotten man in a federation he once dominated. The three-time former champion hasn't held the World title in two years and doesn't appear to be close to ending that streak. Hogan's arrival has bumped the "Stinger" to secondary status among WCW fan favorites, even though he was voted 1994's Most Popular Wrestler by readers of this magazine.

Sting has every right to feel bitter about what has happened to him over the past two years, but he doesn't. In fact, he refused to bad-mouth Hogan, although it would appear to some skeptics that the champion used him for his own personal gain.

Even after his loss to 51-year-old Antonio Inoki in Japan, he remains very upbeat about his future both in and out of the sport, and expressed those feelings in a recent interview with Senior Writers Chris Bernucca and Eddie Ellner and Managing Editor Dave Lenker at a restaurant in his hometown of Venice Beach, California.



**STING:** This is a good place, guys. The owner knows me, and he'll give us all the time we need to do this.

**EDDIE ELLNER:** What's good here?

**CHRIS BERNUCCA:** The whole lunch menu.

**ELLNER:** So what do you recommend?

**“There's a lot of resentment toward Hulk Hogan in this sport, but none of it comes from me. And there are other ways to get to the title.”**

**BERNUCCA:** The burgers are great. Have an iced tea or a lemonade, too.

**STING:** I'm partial to the guacamole dip myself.

**ELLNER:** Suit yourself. I'm having eggs.

**STING:** Eggs?! Ellner, it's two in the afternoon!

**ELLNER:** No, “Stinger,” it's breakfast time for me. I woke up an hour ago, and I want eggs. And coffee.

**LENKER:** Eddie, we're here to talk to Sting.

**ELLNER:** All right, all right. Sting, what was it like losing to old man Inoki in front of 60,000 people in Tokyo?

**BERNUCCA:** Nice, Ellner. Very nice.

**STING (laughing):** That's all right, guys. Winning would have been a lot better. It wasn't much fun. To put it in terms you would

understand, I'd say it's about the same as writing a column that's entirely wrong. You can relate to that, can't you, Ellner?

**LENKER:** The boy has talent!

**STING (removing sunglasses):** Losing is never fun, guys. You all know that. Antonio Inoki had the home-mat advantage for that one. The man is a legend, and he can still wrestle. There was no shame in losing. Plus, I was treated nicely in Japan. I always have been, and that's why I keep going back there.

**BERNUCCA:** Is wrestling something you'd like to be doing less of?

**STING:** No, not at all. But there's nothing more I can do to increase my visibility or popularity in the sport. That was tapped out a while ago. I'd just like to maintain that while getting involved in other stuff.

**LENKER:** Like television?

**STING:** Like television, like opening fitness centers, like spending more time with my family. Like lazy days like this. You get older, different things become more important to you. I see a lot of guys walk away from the sport and try something else, and they end up coming back to the ring. That's why I really respect Rick Steamboat. He looked at his family and decided they were too important to neglect any longer.

**ELLNER:** His back injury made that decision a lot easier. I heard he could have come back. I think he copped out and used the family thing as an excuse.

**STING:** Ellner, that is why you will be writing columns until you drop dead at your computer. Because you don't know when to quit. Rick Steamboat decided the risks of wrestling with a bad back weren't worth it. He didn't want to wrestle at a level less than he had. His conscience told him that the fans had shown plenty of respect for him and he was going to show the same in return.

(Continued on page 74)

**Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.**





THREE  
CONCUSSIONS

THREE BROKEN  
NOSES

ASSORTED SECOND-DEGREE BURNS

ASSORTED  
BONE CHIPS

SEVEN BROKEN RIBS

ONE TORN  
ABDOMINAL MUSCLE

ONE (PARTIALLY)  
MISSING EAR

THREE SEPARATED  
SHOULDERS

ONE BROKEN WRIST

ONE HERNIATED DISK  
AND THREE BULGING DISKS





# IF CACTUS JACK'S BODY COULD TALK...

By Dave Rosenbaum

**C**ACTUS JACK TREATS his body about as well as a driver in a demolition derby treats his cars. The obvious difference is that after a driver wrecks one car, he can just buy another. Unfortunately for Jack, people are born with only one body, and they can't trade it in.

Jack must think his body is disposable. Either that or he's immune to pain. Jack's like the watch that takes a licking and keeps on ticking, the thrice-

ONE TORN  
POSTERIOR LIGAMENT

ONE BROKEN  
RIGHT TOE

There isn't a part of Cactus Jack's wounded torso that doesn't have a war story to tell. From head to toe, his body parts are the most damaged goods in wrestling!



burned fireman who keeps walking into fires, the madman who just won't quit.

There isn't a part of Jack's body that hasn't been sliced, diced, spiced, dropped, kicked, beaten, spindled, and mutilated. He's one of those wrestlers who's willing to take five shots to deliver one good one. A former tag team partner called Jack "the most callused wrestler in the world. He has calluses on his back."

It's not easy being the madman from Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. It's even more difficult being one of his body parts.

If they could only tell the tales ...

**HEAD, SHOULDERS, SPINE:** "I gotta admit, Vader took care of all three parts in one shot," Jack said of the horrifying incident that occurred on April 21, 1993, at Center Stage Theater in Atlanta. "I don't remember much of it, but I've seen it on tape a few times, and I've never liked what I seen."

That one Vader power bomb, which has been replayed thousands of times on WCW telecasts, was a sickening chapter in wrestling history. It showed the ugly side of the sport, where bloodthirsty, ruthless rulebreakers decide that injuring an opponent is more important than winning a match.

First, Harley Race, Vader's manager, pulled away a section of the rubberized protective padding covering the cement floor. Then Vader lifted Jack to shoulder height and turned



him upside down.

"The floor came at me at a thousand miles an hour," Jack's head would tell you. "Got me right in the back."

"The impact vibrated right into me," his shoulder would scream.

"I went numb," his spine would add. "I haven't been the same since!"

Jack was hospitalized

**Ouch!** That's what Cactus Jack's whole body said after he was powerbombed by Big Van Vader on the concrete floor in 1993 (left). An ambulance took him to a hospital (below), where he was diagnosed as having a concussion and amnesia.



Wonder what was going through his head when Cactus Jack lost part of his ear? Probably the hurt and pain of losing something near and dear. Life hasn't been the same ever since.



with a severe concussion and amnesia.

**EAR:** "So there I am, lying on the mat, and Jack's other ear, my partner, is still attached to his body," Jack's right ear would tell you. "I just can't buy a break! And, you know, I was getting pretty attached to that guy."

Last spring, Vader delivered another devastating blow to Jack's body when he tangled Jack in the ring ropes during a match in Germany and tore most of his right ear off in the process.

"It didn't hurt me," Jack's ear would say. "But I don't think I could say the same about his head."



**BACK, SKULL:** "I've been hit with so many lead pipes, bottles, and chairs that sometimes I wish I'd been attached to somebody else's body. Heck, even Dolly Parton's would be better, and I know her back has a tough time as it is," Jack's back would say. "And if it's not a lead pipe, it's a hockey stick. If it's not a hockey stick, it's somebody's forearm, or maybe a table, or even a whole damn concession stand."

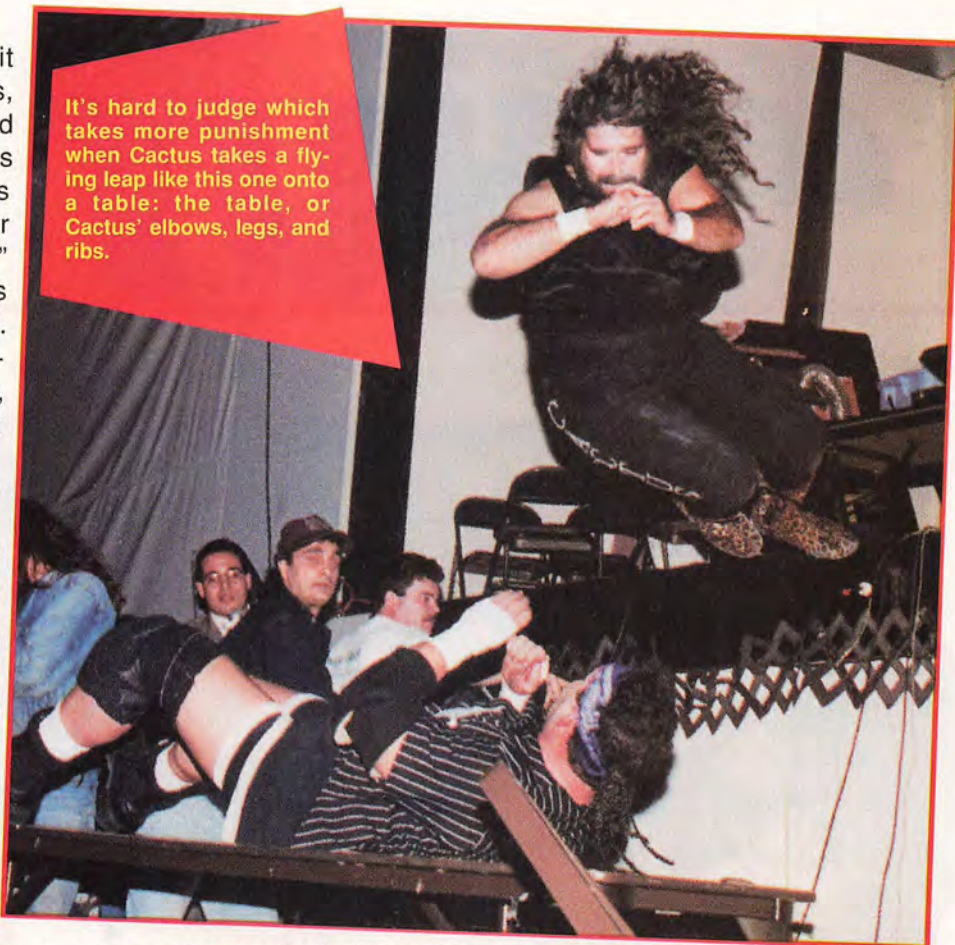
The back gets no sympathy from the head.

"You think you've got it bad," the skull would say. "At least you're not trying to protect his brain. I'm the part that has to keep on taking one for the team. The only thing I'm glad about is that he doesn't like to moonsault."

"Yeah," the back might reply. "You've got it rough. But how'd you like to have some 500-pound fat boy pounding and walking all over you. And you might be protecting his brain, but you're obviously not doing a very good job of it. Otherwise he would've retired us to Florida a long time ago and let me get sunburned."

**LEGS:** Cactus Jack isn't the

It's hard to judge which takes more punishment when Cactus takes a flying leap like this one onto a table: the table, or Cactus' elbows, legs, and ribs.



most muscular wrestler in the world. He'd be doing his legs a big favor if he'd let them lift some weights once in a while. Skin and bones get hurt pretty easily without

some muscle to protect them.

"Yeah, but he'd never do anything for us," the right leg might say. "And we don't get any sympathy from the other body parts because they're always blaming us for getting him to the ring every night. Heck, they should blame Brain. It's his idea."

Both legs have felt their share of pipes, chairs, kicks, and turnbuckle posts. At Halloween Havoc '93, Vader tried to pull Jack's leg out of its socket ... and very nearly succeeded.

"It didn't tickle then, and it still don't tickle," the left leg would complain. "We've been scarred, bruised, burned, and beaten so many times, I'm just about getting used to it. But one of these days, I swear it, we're going to refuse to walk him to the ring. At some point, we're just gonna have to put our feet down."

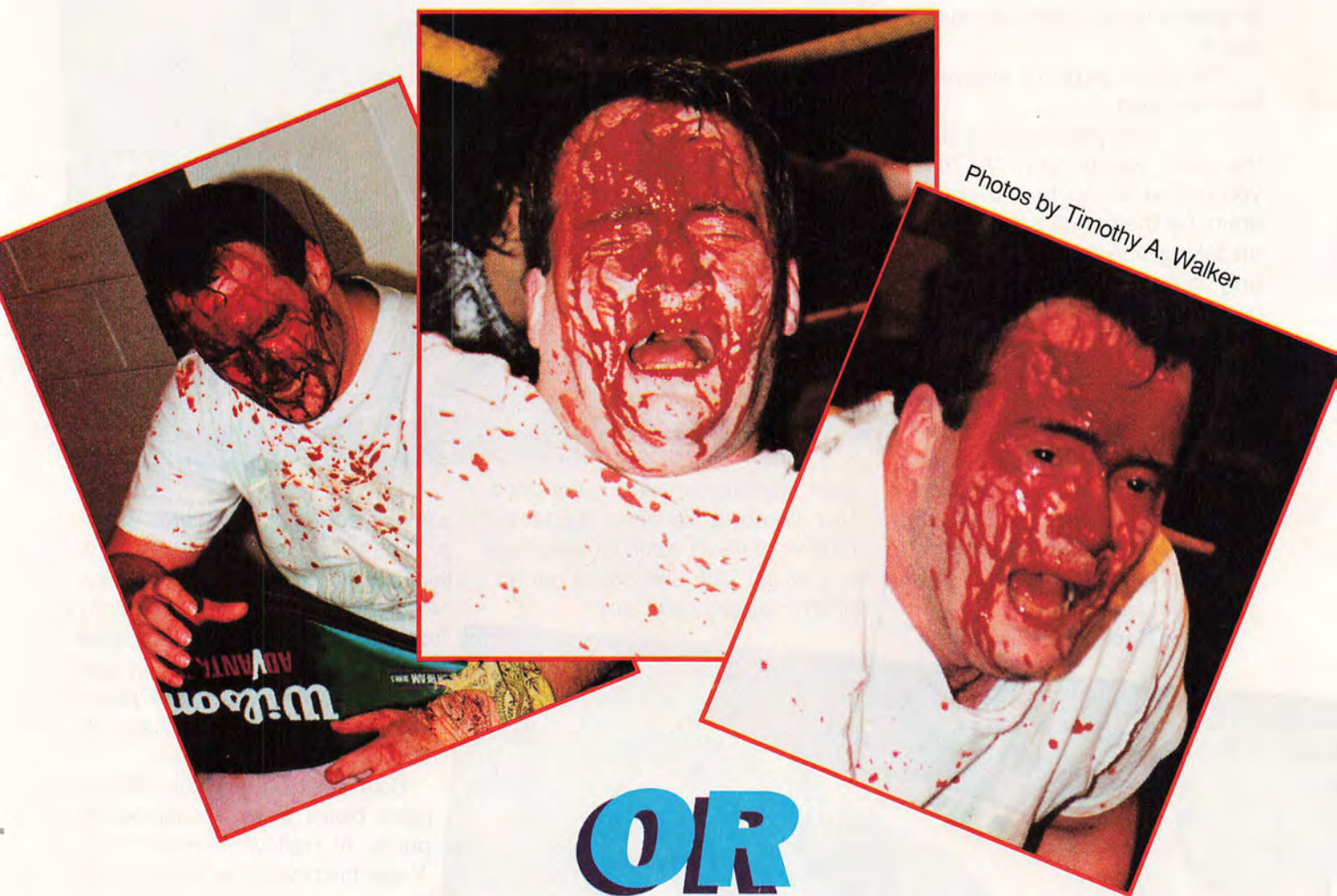
Excuse the pun. They're only body parts.

It's no wonder Cactus' body is rebelling against him. One leap over a protective railing is enough to break a few bones and tear a few muscles!





# "SHUT UP



Photos by Timothy A. Walker

**OR  
THIS COULD  
BE JUST THE  
BEGINNING"**



# CORNETTE...



New Jack likes to talk trash, but not nearly to the extent that Jim Cornette does. The Gangstas have vowed to get revenge on Cornette. Judging from past actions, you don't want to make them madder than they already are.

By Steve Anderson

**W**HEN JIM CORNETTE was a child, he was often the target of verbal barbs and physical attacks. His class-

mates would yell "Mama's boy!" at him and follow up with beatings that would forever remain in the psyche of young James E. After the one-

**Jim Cornette  
loves to  
talk trash,  
and The  
Gangstas love  
to  
inflict pain.  
Lately,  
Cornette  
doesn't know  
when to stop  
insulting New  
Jack and  
Mustafa  
Saed...and  
that's fine  
with them!**





Rick Morton and Robert Gibson have saved Cornette from several beatings. Even they admit they don't trust Cornette totally; Cornette may soon find that there is no one willing to defend him when The Gangstas launch an attack.

ed, "If you boys call this a beating, you're dad-gummed crazy! My butler beat me worse with the maid's feather duster! Next time you see me, you better finish the job—but I doubt you two punks can handle that!"

A new, bold, and brave Jim Cornette? Or just the same pompous, stupid one?

The Gangstas were direct in their response. After being held back by arena security and ordered to his locker room, New Jack, as if he were addressing the manager directly, sternly said, "Shut up Cornette ... or this could be just the beginning. You want us to finish the job? Keep it up, fat man. Keep shootin' off your mouth. You like usin' that tennis racket? Well, we'll use it, too, and you don't want to know how. Your mama can't save you now."

"That's right, mama's boy," Mustafa Saed chimed in. "You thought you hurt when we dissed you by rejecting you as a manager and then beat you up tonight. Well, punk, Jack's right. Your mama can't save you. Not even those pretty boys Morton and Gibson can help. You just remember to open wide when you're talkin' trash to us—so both of our fists can fit."

Prophetic words from less-than-prophetic men. But The Gangstas have a point. Cornette has always been known for his big mouth, and that big mouth has gotten him in a lot of trouble. But never has Cornette openly tempted fate by continuing to berate two men who nearly ended his career, let alone his life.

The question is: Why? Why taunt two men who could disassemble you in a heartbeat? Why draw a line in the sand and defy them to cross it?

Cornette is at the apex of his

sided pummelings, he would run crying to his mother. Mama Cornette would make a few phone calls, and the offending students, instead of taunting Jim, would then ignore their helpless victim.

Problem solved.

After years of schoolyard abuse, coupled with a career as a wrestling manager, Jim Cornette has taken his share of punches, dropkicks, bodyslams, and scaffold falls. But none of those could compare to the beating he suffered at the hands of The Gangstas after he helped The

Rock 'n' Roll Express win the Smoky Mountain tag team belts.

To say he was beaten to within an inch of his life that night would be a gross understatement. As Cornette was carried back to the dressing room area, he was bloodied, bruised, and nearly unconscious.

He was also laughing.

As physicians pieced him back together again, Cornette noticed The Gangstas passing by his dressing room. Limping and bloody, he broke free of the doctors and shout-



career. He has the ability, drive, and intelligence to dominate two federations, the WWF and Smoky Mountain, at once. Managing The Rock 'n' Roll Express has made him more confident than ever. Here is a tag team he has feuded with for so long that people can't remember exactly when—or exactly how—the war started.

Smoky Mountain fans have long booed Cornette for his abrasive and arrogant behavior. Now he manages an extremely popular tag team and, by default, the fans are cheering his every move.

But he hasn't changed. In fact, he's even more unbearable than ever.

Cornette used to avoid face-to-face, one-on-one confrontations with his rivals; now he welcomes them. He used to stay away from the locker rooms of teams like The Gangstas after absorbing such brutal and bloody beatings; now he pounds on those doors, daring his arch-rivals to repeat the dirty deed.

Could all those playground and professional beatings have caused him to snap?

"Snap?" Cornette laughed when told of this theory. "I've never been thinking more clearly in my life. The Gangstas? Ha! To say they ain't nothin' would mean that they were once somethin' in the first place. The Gangstas? Yellow! Two yellow dogs!"

Ironic, isn't it, Cornette calling someone else yellow?

"I ain't yellow," he said. "The only thing yellow about me is seven pair of pants I have hangin' in my closet! I've managed three of the best tag teams in recent memory: The Midnight Express, The Heavenly Bodies, and now the Rock 'n' Rolls. No one can question my place in

history. I am invincible."

Could it be that the fans' cheers are inflating Cornette's ego, which is already puffed beyond capacity?

Even Ricky Morton, one of Cornette's new "proteges," admitted that he still questions the common sense of his manager.

"Look, we got to know Cornette very well when we feuded with him. Too well, in fact. But his attitude toward these Gangstas is—well, weird, man. Even after The Gangstas attacked him, it's like he was hoping for more. I mean, we all want to run Jack and Saed out of Smoky Mountain. But Jimmy, well,

he has to..."

Morton grasped for the right words, then just shook his head in confusion.

Robert Gibson attempted to finish his partner's thoughts: "What Rick is trying to say is that if Cornette keeps this up, well, there's only so much we're willing to do. We have a business relationship, not a personal one. There's still hard feelings between us. Someone is going to have to do something about this obsession he has with The Gangstas."

Perhaps someone should call Mama Cornette.



Gibson takes control of New Jack with a rear chinlock. Gibson is having a hard time explaining his new manager's obsession with destroying The Gangstas, and hopes someone stops him from going too far in his insults.



# RIOT ON THE SET!

**THE  
UNTOLD  
STORY OF  
BRET HART'S  
LONESOME  
DOVE DEBUT**





# The last place Bret Hart thought he would be attacked was on the set of a TV show. But that's what happened in the latest chapter of an ugly family feud!



Photos by Chris Large/Canadian Dove Productions

Bret Hart (above) hoped to get a break from his nightly wrestling wars when he filmed two episodes of *Lonesome Dove*. Owen Hart (inset, opposite page) made sure that didn't happen. He wanted to end Bret's acting career before it got started!

By Chris Bernucca

**G**IVEN A CHOICE, Bret Hart probably would have preferred not limping around on a bum knee and still feeling the lingering effects of a Bob Backlund chicken wing. But at least he was away from the chaos of wrestling—and from his brother.

Hart had returned home to Calgary following his shocking WWF World title loss to Backlund at Survivor Series. But win or lose, he was planning to go there anyway. Hart was scheduled to appear in a television series and was very excited about his first major acting role.

Although Bret would never admit it, family members revealed that he was happy about getting away from the fierce competition of the WWF and its daily pressures.

"You would think he would be down about losing the title, but he wasn't, not as much as I expected," said brother Bruce. "In fact, he hardly discussed it at all. All he could talk about was his acting and getting a chance to catch up on stuff with his family."

Just as Hulk Hogan had before him, Hart has parlayed his success as a wrestler into opportunities outside the ring. He had landed the

role of hunter/trapper Luther Root in a weekly adventure drama called *Lonesome Dove*. Best of all, the show would be filming on location in Calgary, Alberta, which would allow Hart to unwind from the rigors of wrestling around people he loved. Sometimes things work out better than anyone could have planned.

The panoramic province of Alberta is very much similar to the Midwest region of the United States. There are vast plains stretching as far as the eye can see. The horizon is framed by mountain ranges. People wear jeans and cowboy hats, not suits and pagers. It's a simple life, one for which Hart has never lost an appreciation.

But the confusion of his true profession came crashing onto the set and nearly ended Hart's acting career before it ever got started. According to several employees close to the production of the television show, Owen Hart tried to continue his war with his brother by disrupting production and aggravating directors to no end. There was an actual physical confrontation between the brothers, proving that there are no boundaries to the hatred Owen holds for Bret.

"Every location filming has people hanging around, just out of curiosity," said one production assistant. "People like to watch shows being filmed, and they always have questions about what's being filmed and who's in it. Most of the time, they're very polite. When you ask them to be quiet during filming, they are. I can count the number of times we've had disruptions from the crowd on one hand. But this was one of those times."

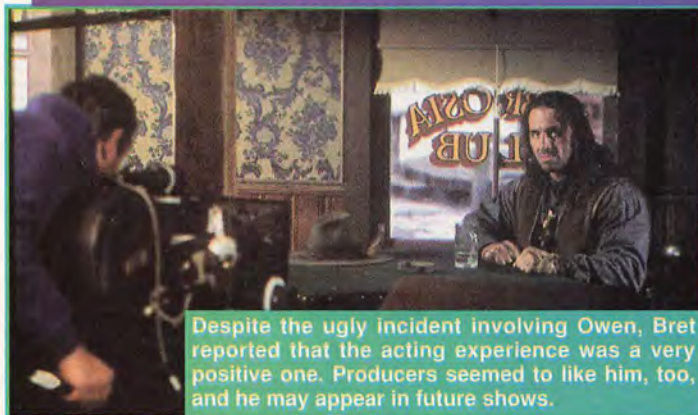
Apparently, Owen showed up as one of those bystanders; he wasted little time making his presence known.

"There was this one guy," said a female production assistant responsible for costumes. "He started with catcalls from the crowd, and he just never shut up. We asked him to be

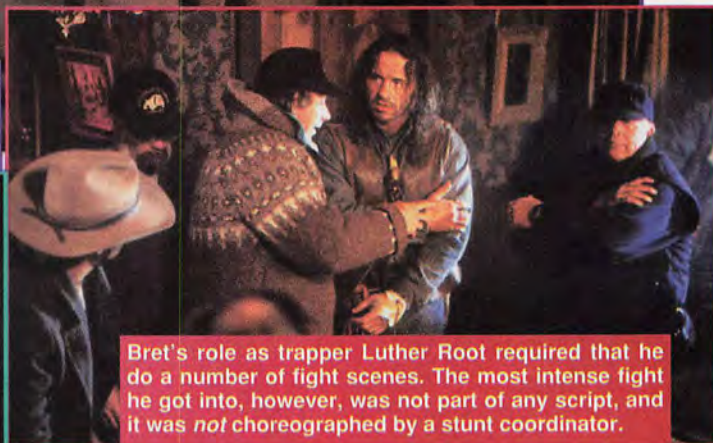




After Bret assured everyone on the set that Owen wouldn't cause them any more problems, production of the two episodes went very smoothly. Maybe after his wrestling career is over, "The Hitman" will go Hollywood full-time.



Despite the ugly incident involving Owen, Bret reported that the acting experience was a very positive one. Producers seemed to like him, too, and he may appear in future shows.



Bret's role as trapper Luther Root required that he do a number of fight scenes. The most intense fight he got into, however, was not part of any script, and it was *not* choreographed by a stunt coordinator.

quiet, but he refused. There were some local police around the set, and we asked them if there was anything they could do. One officer replied, 'Are you kidding? That's Owen Hart. If I arrest Owen Hart in Calgary, I'll be behind a desk for the next 20 years.'

"During a break, Bret was taking some makeup, and I asked him if he was related to the man in the audience," she added. "When he said that he was, I asked him if there was anything he could do to control him. He said he'd try."

Apparently, all Bret was able to do was make the situation worse. According to eyewitnesses, he walked over to where Owen was standing; the two then exchanged heated words before Owen knocked

way he had done countless times in the wrestling ring. The two scuffled for about three minutes, knocking over tables and doing some minor damage to equipment.

"Police were slow to react because they were locals and knew the history between the brothers," the first production assistant said. "These guys are like gods up there, so they get a bit of leeway. They finally broke it up, but Bret hit his head pretty good on a camera lens and took a cut that no makeup person could hide. That ended production for that day."

It also started a tirade from the producer, who had no choice but to shut down for the day. Knowing that he was about to pay his union crew a full day for a half day's work, he

over a police barrier and went after his brother, much the same

yelled at everyone within earshot. Police told Owen Hart point-blank that if he disrupted production again, he would be arrested, local god or no local god.

When filming resumed the following morning, there was an uneasiness on the set until Bret personally apologized to the producer and director for his brother's actions and assured them that it would not happen again. Production of the episode was completed without incident. Bret later said that despite his brother's interference, it was a pleasure to work on a show like *Lonesome Dove* and was grateful to the producer for the opportunity.

Many of "The Hitman's" fans were upset when they saw their hero step entirely out of character and sneak-attack his brother at the Royal Rumble. Those on the set in Calgary that day probably enjoyed every minute of it.



# close-up: THE UNDERTAKER

**H**E STANDS 6'8", weighs 320 pounds, and who knows how many lives he has had. The Undertaker is one of the most feared, popular, and unusual men in wrestling history ... Deep-set eyes and a pale complexion add to the suggestion that he actually comes from the afterworld ... Was born in Dallas, Texas, and played college basketball ... Began his wrestling career in the CWA, first competing as The Master of Pain and then under a mask as The Punisher ... Eventually adopted the moniker "Mean" Mark Callous ... Was called upon by manager Teddy Long to replace Sid Vicious as Dan Spivey's partner in The Skyscrapers. His spot was gone when Vicious returned, and their feud still hasn't been settled ... Left WCW for the WWF in mid-1990 and became The Undertaker ... Was originally a rulebreaker under the management of Brother Love ... His "tombstone" piledriver is one of the most dangerous and potent finishing maneuvers in wrestling ... On March 26, 1991, Undertaker and new manager Paul Bearer lured The Ultimate Warrior onto the set of the "Funeral Parlor" ... Undertaker attacked Warrior and stuffed him into an airtight coffin. WWF officials rescued him before he suffocated ... Rendered the Warrior unconscious in one of several horrifying "bodybag" matches ... After disposing of the Warrior, set his sights on WWF World champion Hulk Hogan ... Defeated Hogan for the title at Survivor Series on November 27, 1991, in Detroit, Michigan ... At one point, he strangled Hogan with a coaxial cable ... Piledrived Hogan onto a metal chair while Bearer distracted the referee, then scored the pin ... Six days later at the "Tuesday In Texas" pay-per-view, Undertaker was struck by his own urn and was pinned by Hogan ... The belt was eventually held up ... Teamed with Jake Roberts against Hogan and Randy Savage ... Resumed his feud with Sid Vicious ...

Undertaker's image suddenly changed when he saved Elizabeth (at the time Randy Savage's wife) from a chair attack by Roberts on January 29 in Amarillo, Texas ... Was recognized as a fan favorite and twice piledrived Roberts at WrestleMania VIII ... Easily handled Kamala in a heated feud ... Began constructing a custom-made coffin for Kamala ... The coffin was at ringside for their match at Survivor Series '92 ... Rolled Kamala into the coffin and nailed it shut ... Feuded with Papa Shango in a battle of two of the most bizarre figures ever seen in wrestling ... Showed his good side when he agreed to donate his purse from a January 29, 1993, card at Madison Square Garden to assist the relief effort in Somalia ... Was eliminated from the 1993 Royal Rumble when Giant Gonzales interfered and attacked him ... Defeated Yokozuna by disqualification in one of their earliest matches when Yokozuna was caught throwing salt in his eyes ... Sensational entrance at WrestleMania IX was unforgettable; he was carried by four men on a coffin-like structure ... He left on a

stretcher, too, after Gonzales covered his face with a towel soaked in chloroform, and they feuded for months ... Paul Bearer lost his urn to Harvey Wippleman for a while, when Mr. Hughes stole it ... Battled Yokozuna throughout Europe ... Slumped during the months following the Gonzales incident ... Experts blamed the slump on the loss of his magical urn ... Defeated Gonzales at SummerSlam '93 in a "Rest In Peace" match and regained his urn ... Unfortunately, Undertaker was failing in his quest to win the WWF World title from Yokozuna, his hated rival ... Mr. Fuji's interference constantly foiled Undertaker ... Scored a moral victory by defeating Yokozuna in a series of non-title casket matches ... Locked Yokozuna in a casket in most of those matches and won others by disqualification ... Teamed with Lex Luger and Rick and Scott Steiner to defeat Yokozuna, Ludvig Borga, and Crush at Survivor Series '93 ...

Yokozuna became terrified of the casket and constantly had to rely on Fuji's interference ... Lost to Yokozuna in an incredible casket match at the 1994 Royal Rumble ... Yokozuna needed the help of eight wrestlers to roll Undertaker into the casket ... Before it was sealed, Undertaker recovered and tried to roll the 568-pound behemoth into the casket ... Was ambushed by Crush, Genichiro Tenryu, The Great Kabuki, Bam Bam Bigelow, Adam Bomb, The Headshrinkers, and Adam Bomb ... Was worn down and rolled into the casket; this time it was sealed ... After the casket was wheeled away, Undertaker appeared on a giant TV screen and emerged at the top of the screen, vowing to return ... Over the following months, Ted DiBiase claimed to have signed The Undertaker ... DiBiase's Undertaker began wrestling on cards in the United States,

who competed a few times in Japan ... Rumors circulated that it wasn't the real Undertaker ... At WWF Monday Night Raw on June 20, 1994, Paul Bearer confronted DiBiase's Undertaker. Bearer tried to embrace Undertaker, who merely stared back at him ... DiBiase's Undertaker signed to wrestle Bearer's Undertaker at SummerSlam '94 ... Bearer's Undertaker turned out to be the real thing, and he pinned the Evil Undertaker in 9:12; he hasn't been heard from since ... Shot back up in the WWF ratings with victories over Crush in casket matches ... Resumed his feuds with Yokozuna and Jerry Lawler ... Was turned back in USWA title bids against Sid Vicious ... Defeated Yokozuna in another casket match at Survivor Series '94 with actor Chuck Norris serving as special troubleshooting referee ... Undertaker's war with DiBiase continued when he defeated Irwin R. Schyster at the 1995 Royal Rumble ... Once again, Undertaker seems to be on the brink of regaining the WWF World title.





**PRO Wrestling**  
ILLUSTRATED

# THE UNDERTAKER

A Grave Danger  
To His Opponents!









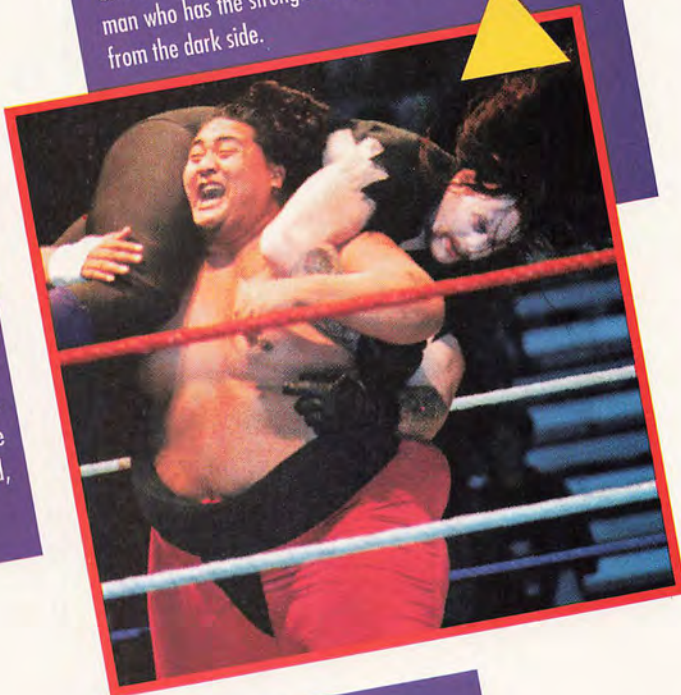


### FAVORITE MANEUVER

**"Tombstone" piledriver.** Whether delivered onto a metal chair, the arena floor, or even onto the relatively cushioned surface of the mat, Undertaker's famous "tombstone" piledriver is a lethal version of this age-old move, delivered with gusto by this awesome individual. He places his opponent's head, facing backward, between his knees and sends it crashing into the mat.

### TOUGHEST OPPONENT

**Yokozuna.** Often beaten, never quite conquered, the 568-pound Samoan rarely defeated The Undertaker, but he always found a way to keep the WWF World title from him. Undertaker and Yokozuna are still at war, but that twinkle in Mr. Fuji's eyes tells us that Yokozuna kept Undertaker from what he really wanted. Yokozuna is one man who has the strength and girth to overpower the man from the dark side.



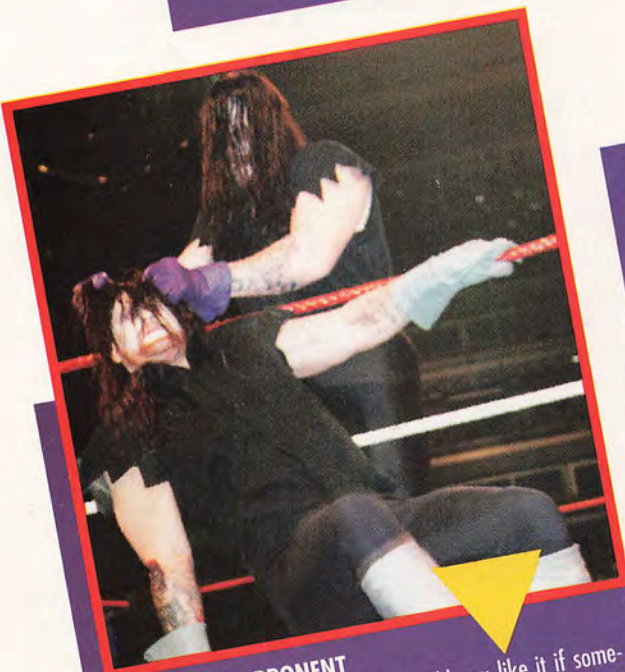
### GREATEST MATCH

**vs. Hulk Hogan, November 27, 1991.** Today's Undertaker might not have approved of the means to the end, but Undertaker won his first and only WWF World title on this night by defeating the "Hulkster." He relied on interference by Ric Flair and a distraction set up by manager Paul Bearer and piledrived Hogan onto a metal chair. He then covered him to win the belt. His reign lasted six days.



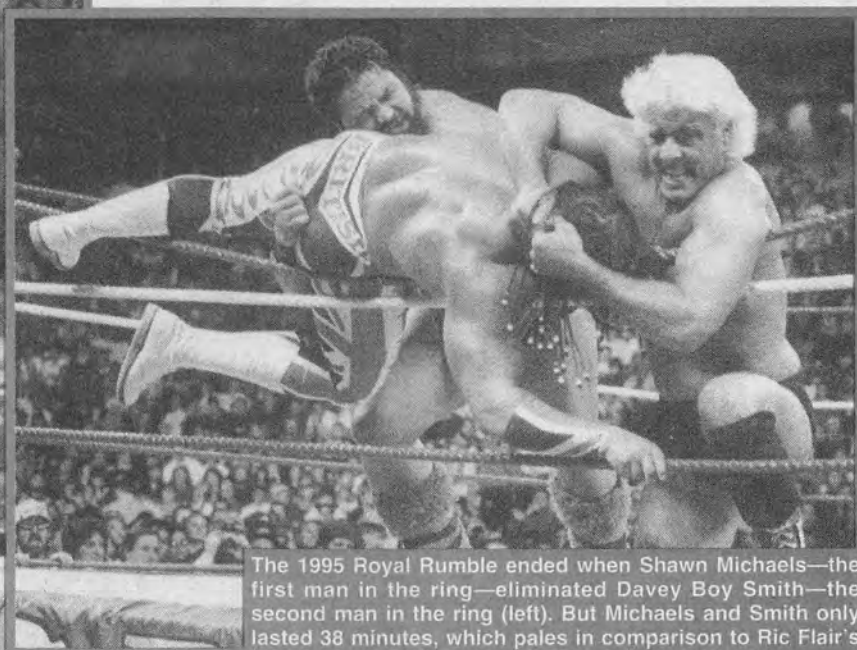
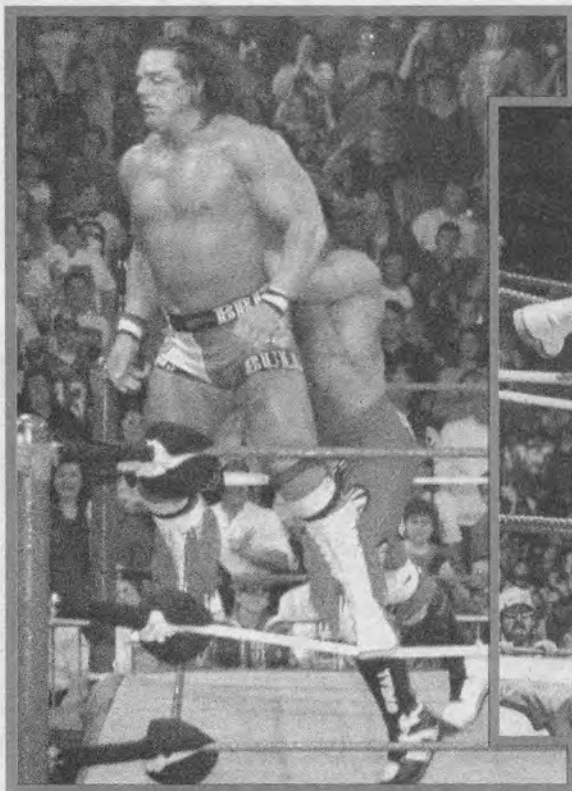
### MOST HATED OPPONENT

**The Evil Undertaker.** Hey, how would you like it if somebody started going around calling himself The Evil John Doe? Undertaker was resting in peace last summer when Ted DiBiase introduced his version of the man from the great beyond. They met at SummerSlam '94, and the real deal disposed of the fake in decisive and impressive fashion. He still can't stand DiBiase for trying to pull off that ruse.





# HOW THE WWF FUMBLERD THE ROYAL RUMBLE



The 1995 Royal Rumble ended when Shawn Michaels—the first man in the ring—eliminated Davey Boy Smith—the second man in the ring (left). But Michaels and Smith only lasted 38 minutes, which pales in comparison to Ric Flair's 60-minute performance in 1992 (above).

**By Dave Rosenbaum**

IN 1988, BRET Hart remained in the WWF's Royal Rumble for 36 minutes. In 1990, Ted DiBiase remained in the ring for 44 minutes 52 seconds. Rick Martel lasted a whopping 52 minutes 35 seconds in 1991.

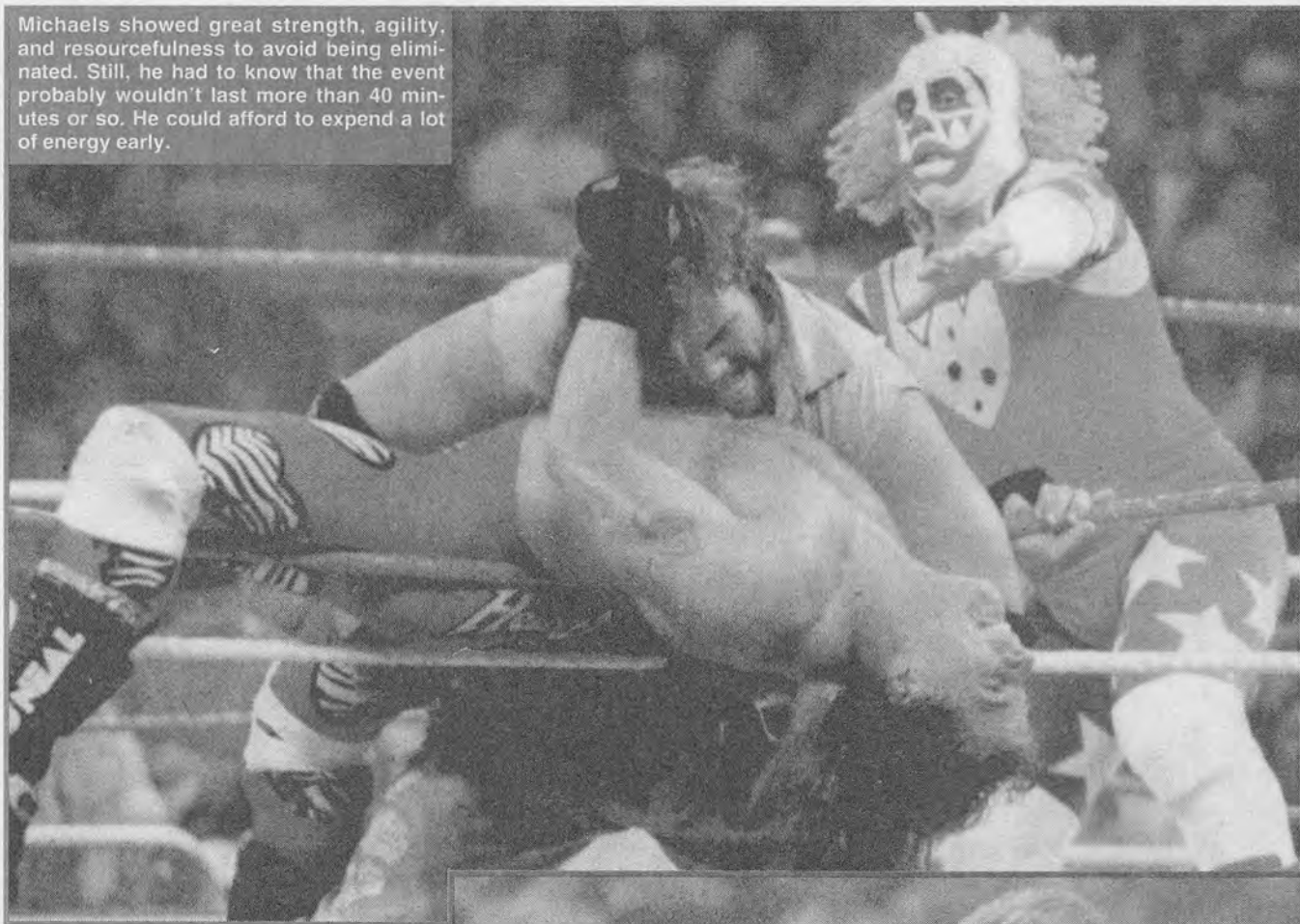
Ric Flair won the 1992 Royal Rumble—and the WWF World championship in the process—but had to last 60 minutes 2 seconds to do it.

Bob Backlund didn't win the 1993 Royal Rumble—or any title—

*On January 22, 1995, the WWF took one of wrestling's most exciting events and turned it into an almost-ordinary match. Leaner and meaner? Hardly. The Royal Rumble just isn't what it used to be*



Michaels showed great strength, agility, and resourcefulness to avoid being eliminated. Still, he had to know that the event probably wouldn't last more than 40 minutes or so. He could afford to expend a lot of energy early.



when he set a longevity record of 61 minutes 18 seconds.

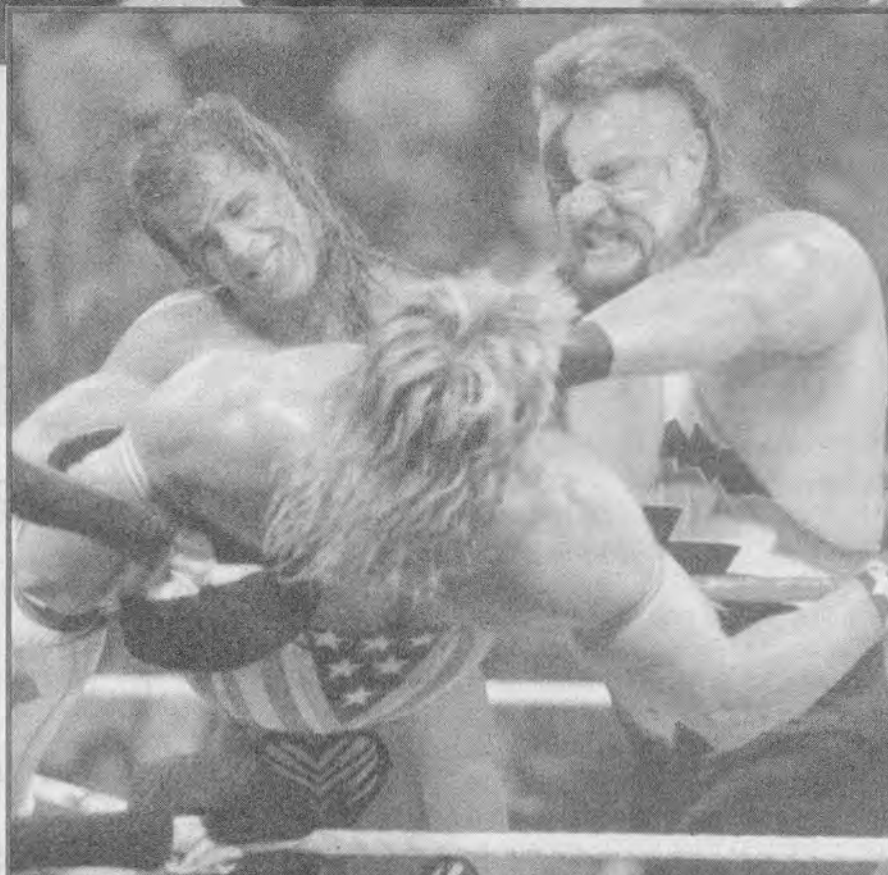
And in 1995, Shawn Michaels went bell-to-bell for the victory. But Michaels didn't set any records. In fact, he barely eclipsed Hart's 1988 mark.

Michaels was in the ring for 38 minutes 45 seconds. Sure, it was an impressive performance, and Michaels didn't sit idle during his time in the ring: He eliminated seven men by himself. The seventh man he eliminated, however, also lasted 38 minutes 45 seconds. Davey Boy Smith was the second man into the ring. He was also the last man tossed out.

So what does it say when two men go the distance in the Royal Rumble?

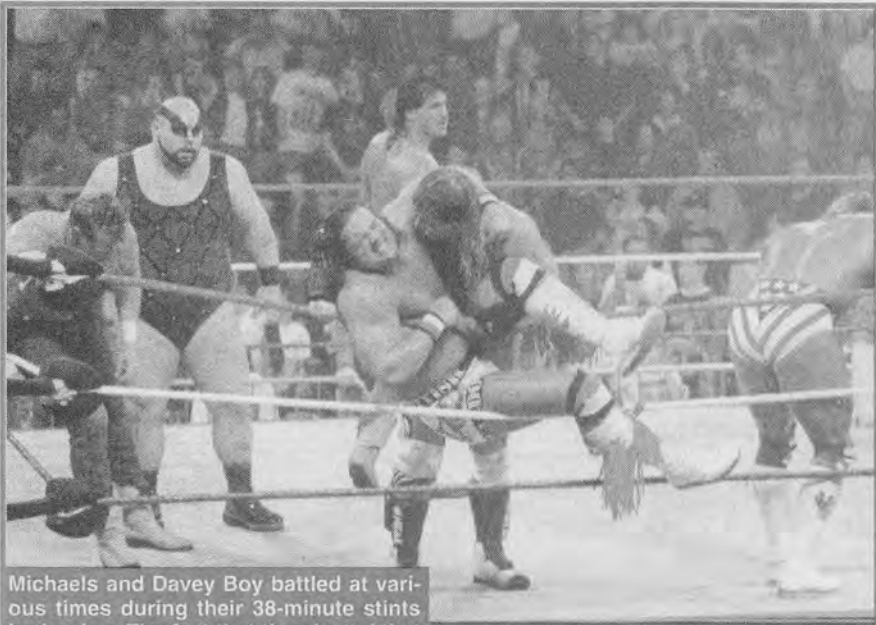
It says that something is wrong. And it definitely is.

Because in 1995, the WWF messed with perfection and changed the format of the Royal



Crush and Michaels join forces to try to oust Lex Luger. Michaels can brag all he wants about his performance in the 1995 Rumble, but the event just wasn't the same this year.





Michaels and Davey Boy battled at various times during their 38-minute stints in the ring. The fact that they lasted that long isn't *that* impressive, though. Both have wrestled regular matches that lasted much longer.

Rumble. It fiddled with what many people consider the best pay-per-view event of the year. Sure, the Royal Rumble is still one of the

most thrilling events on the wrestling calendar. In past years, however, hot-stove discussion over who would win the event was only slightly more intense than debate over who would last the longest, or whether another Rumble longevity

record would be broken.

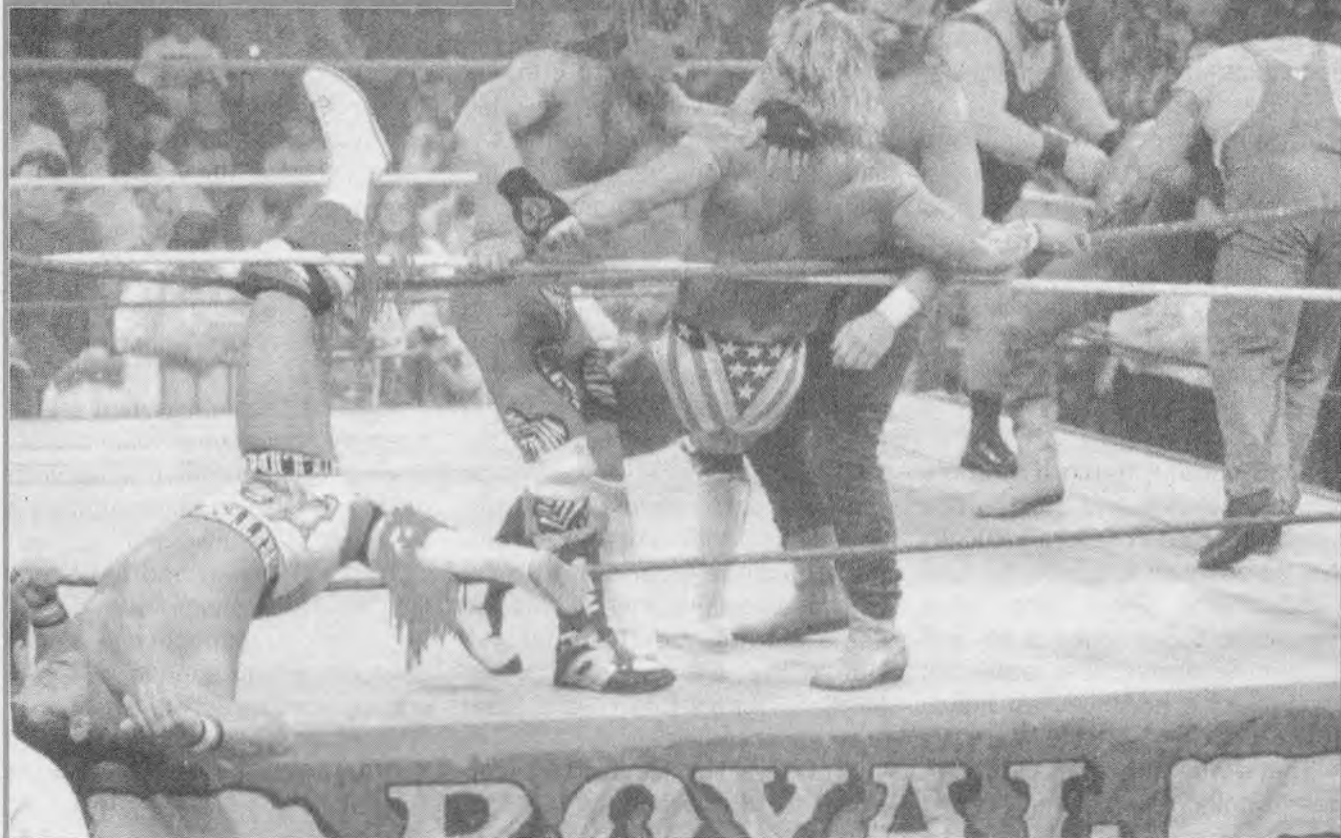
Unless the WWF goes back to the old format, Backlund's name will be permanently etched in the record book, and wrestling fans will forever think back to the good old days when the Royal Rumble had two champions: the man who won the event, and the man who lasted the longest in the ring.

This year's event was the WWF's Royal Bumble.

In the original format of the Royal Rumble, wrestlers entered the ring one every two minutes until, after 56 minutes, all 30 wrestlers had participated (and most were eliminated). The match usually ended about seven or eight minutes later, with all participants exhausted.

Under this format, the first five men into the ring faced an almost impossible situation in which they'd be forced to battle for close to an hour, only to face fresh wrestlers if they overcame the lopsided odds.

This was one of the more exciting moments in the Rumble—when Smith got his leg caught in the ropes and was nearly eliminated. The 1995 event obviously had a faster pace than past Rumbles, but more exciting? Not really.







Bob Backlund didn't win the 1993 Royal Rumble, but he did set a record for longevity. There's not much of a chance that his record will be broken if the WWF doesn't go back to the old format.

For these men, the Rumble was a test of strength, skill, and endurance—particularly endurance.

Under the new format, the wrestlers entered the ring one every minute until, after 28 minutes, every wrestler was in the ring (and many had been eliminated). In 1995, the match ended 10 minutes later when Michaels dumped Smith over the top rope.

Both men looked like they could have lasted another 20 minutes ... at least.

A 38-minute match is nothing new to Michaels and Smith. They have competed in several matches that lasted much longer. In the late-1980s, Ric Flair and Rick Steamboat had a series of 60- and 90-minute draws. It's really not unusual for a match to last nearly 40 minutes.

That's why Michaels and Smith weren't bothered when they learned

that they had drawn the first two spots in the Royal Rumble. They knew that what was formerly a daunting task was now only half as daunting. The Rumble was no longer the WWF's ultimate test of endurance; it was an abbreviated version, like playing only 4½ innings of a World Series game.

The WWF shortened the Rumble in an attempt to make it more exciting. For some reason, the bean counters in the WWF decided wrestling fans don't want to watch a 70-minute marathon (even if it's packed with the best action of the year) and ignored the Rumble's historically high pay-per-view buy rate and positive reviews in the wrestling media. This "entertain-the-audience-with-something-besides-wrestling" mentality is the same mentality that brought us Doink the Clown, Men on a Mission, "King's Court," and other assorted absurdities.

The Royal Rumble used to be an event for the wrestling fan who

loves wrestling and high-intensity action.

Instead, the WWF gave us 21 minutes of Jeff Jarrett vs. Razor Ramon, 12 minutes of The Undertaker vs. Irwin R. Schyster, 28 minutes of Diesel vs. Bret Hart, and 10 minutes of The Kid and Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly against Bam Bam Bigelow and Tatanka. Not to mention many looks at the lovely and buxom Pamela Anderson, who was hosting the show and doing little more than looking good in a tight outfit.

It was a case of too many appetizers and not enough main course. Shrimp cocktail, onion soup, liver pate, and chicken fingers before a tiny scrap of filet mignon.

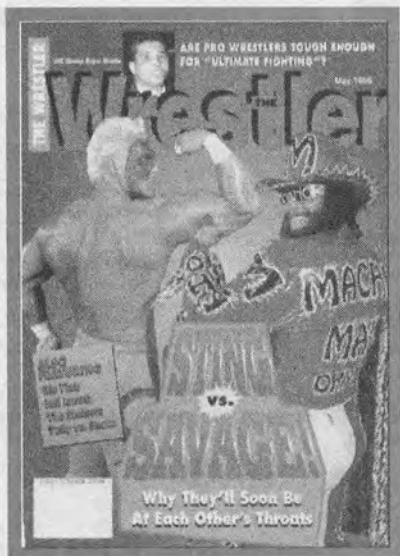
Hart vs. Diesel and the Royal Rumble itself—shrimp cocktail and filet mignon, respectively—would have more than enough to satisfy our appetites for action.

Instead, we walked away from the Rumble hungry for more of the good stuff. □



.....this month in.....

# THE **Wrestler**

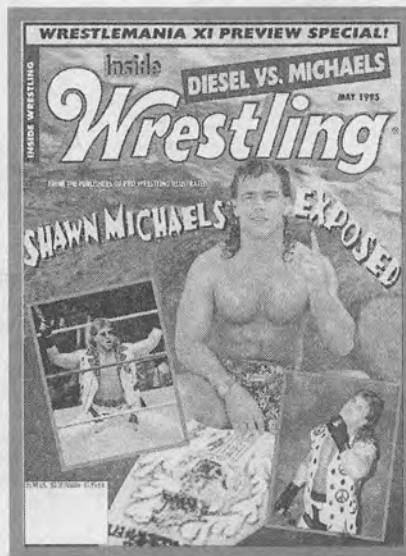


**HULK HOGAN** can't have two best friends in WCW. He used to team with **STING** a lot, but now it's **RANDY SAVAGE'S** turn. Have you noticed that the "Stinger" and the "Macho Man" aren't seen together much? They'll soon be at each other's throats! ... The **RIC FLAIR-BRET HART** feud ended two years ago, or did it? Flair still has unfinished business in the WWF ... You've heard **JEFF JARRETT** talk about how wonderful he is, but he just might be as great as he thinks!

All this—and much more!—in the May 1995 issue of **The Wrestler**



# Inside **Wrestling**



**SHAWN MICHAELS** is the kind of man who only likes to reveal a little bit of himself at once. What will he show us next? ... **HULK HOGAN** is, without a doubt, the leader of the WCW fan favorites. You won't believe what was said when he brought them all together one night in a "call to arms" ... If you think **THE UNDERTAKER** is scary inside the ring, you will be shocked when you read some of the man from the dark side's ghoulish "Tales From The Crypt!"

All this—and much more!—in the May 1995 issue of **Inside Wrestling**







# arena reports



## UNITED STATES

### ARIZONA

**PHOENIX**—WCW at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum: Alex Wright beat Bobby Eaton ... TV champion Johnny B. Badd defeated Jean-Paul LeVeque ... Marcus Bagwell & The Patriot beat Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma ... Dustin Rhodes beat Lord Steven Regal ... The Nasty Boys beat World tag team champions Harlem Heat by disqualification ... Sting beat Avalanche by disqualification. (01-01-95)

—Barry Yeats

### CALIFORNIA

**SUN VALLEY**—Slammers Wrestling Federation at Slammers Gym: El Toro Bravo defeated The Samoan Kid ... Hombre De Oro and Dynamite Diana wrestled to a double-countout ... Tyrone Little defeated "Beautiful" Bruce Beaudine ... Heavyweight champion Jeff Lindberg defeated Movie Star Mike by disqualification in a non-title dog collar match ... Movie Star Mike won a battle royal. (01-01-95)

—Gregg John

**SAN FRANCISCO**—WWF at the Cow Palace: The Smokin' Gunns beat The Heavenly Bodies ... Wink & Pink beat Queasy & Sleazy ... Bam Bam Bigelow defeated Adam Bomb ... Lex Luger wrestled Tatanka to a double-countout ... "Man O' War" Aldo Montoya pinned "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Bob Backlund ... Davey Boy Smith beat Jim Neidhart ... The Undertaker beat Irwin R. Schyster. (12-30-94)

—Chrissy Vogel

**LOS ANGELES**—WWF at the Great Western Forum: Bam Bam Bigelow beat Adam Bomb ... "Man O' War" Aldo Montoya beat "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi ... Davey Boy Smith beat Jim Neidhart ... The Smokin' Gunns defeated The Heavenly Bodies ... Lex Luger wrestled Tatanka to a double-countout ... Wink

& Pink beat Queasy & Sleazy ... The Undertaker pinned Irwin R. Schyster ... World champion Diesel beat Bob Backlund. (12-27-94)

—Angel Hernandez

**SACRAMENTO**—WWF at the Arco Arena: Bam Bam Bigelow beat The Kid ... "Man O' War" Aldo Montoya beat "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi ... The Smokin' Gunns defeated The Heavenly Bodies ... Lex Luger wrestled Tatanka to a double-countout ... Wink & Pink beat Queasy & Cheesy ... World champion Diesel beat Bob Backlund ... Davey Boy Smith beat Jim Neidhart ... The Undertaker beat Irwin R. Schyster. (12-26-94)

—Darren McMichael

### CONNECTICUT

**NEW HAVEN**—WWF at the Coliseum: "Man O' War" Aldo Montoya pinned Steven Dunn ... Henry Godwinn defeated Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly ... World Women's champion Bull Nakano defeated Alundra Blayze ... Bret Hart beat Owen Hart in a no-holds-barred match ... Wink pinned Cheesy ... Lex Luger & Davey Boy Smith defeated Bam Bam Bigelow & King Kong Bundy by countout ... Duke "The Dumpster" Droese beat Timothy Well ... World champion Diesel pinned Jeff Jarrett (with Shawn Michaels). (01-12-95)

—Ben Lee

### FLORIDA

**TAMPA**—WWF Royal Rumble at the Sundome: Buck Quartermaine beat "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi in a match not shown on the pay-per-view broadcast ... Jeff Jarrett pinned Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon in 20:52 to win the title (Jarrett had won by countout at 11:47, but the match was restarted at 14:34 when Ramon agreed to continue the bout) ... The Undertaker (managed by Paul Bearer) pinned Irwin R. Schyster (managed by Ted DiBiase) in 12:20 ... World champion Diesel and Bret Hart fought to a draw in 28:39 after various wrestlers interfered and attacked both men ... The Kid & Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly beat Bam Bam Bigelow & Tatanka in a tournament final to win the vacant World tag team title ... Shawn Michaels won the Royal Rumble, last eliminating Davey Boy Smith at 38:40. (01-22-95)

—Brandon Seth Apter

**DAVIE**—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the Davie Rodeo Arena: Joe Malenko wrestled Steve Richards to a draw ... Kendall Windham beat Hack Myers ... Mikey Whipwreck beat Jason by submission ... Tasmaniac beat Dean

The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Weekly newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly*, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

Malenko by disqualification ... Cactus Jack beat The Sandman in a falls-count-anywhere match ... Chris Benoit pinned 2 Cold Scorpio ... Tag team champions Public Enemy defeated Death Row 3260 & Mr. President ... Heavyweight champion Shane Douglas beat Ron Simmons when the referee stopped the match due to a shoulder injury to Simmons. (01-14-95)

—Ron Lemieux

**TAMPA**—Florida Wrestling Council at the Sportatorium: The Masked Stinger defeated Scott Dingo ... Buddy Valentine & "Classy" Chris Nelson defeated tag team champions The Ayala Brothers to win the belts ... "Queen" Dominique Jasmine won a battle royal to capture the women's title ... Butch "Harley Davidson" Long beat heavyweight champion Navy Seal to win the title ... The Cuban Assassin wrestled to a double-countout Big Sonny T ... Sasquatch & The Gravedigger beat Bad Medicine Mercury & The Red Demon. (01-06-95)

—Shannon Rose

**PLANT CITY**—Plant City Wrestling Federation tournament to determine a new heavyweight champion at the Plant City Auction: *In first round matches:* Big Sonny T beat Haystacks Calhoun Jr. ... "Bad Boy" Jeff Bradley defeated Freight Train Freddie ... Navy Seal beat Jumbo Barretta by disqualification ... "Wild" Bill Garrett wrestled Jerry "Lightning Foot" Flynn to a no-contest, eliminating both men. *In a semi-final match:* Navy Seal defeated Big Sonny T (Jeff Bradley received a bye). *In the tournament final:* Navy Seal beat Jeff Bradley by disqualification to win the title. (01-05-95)

—Shannon Rose

**AUBURNDALE**—Florida Wrestling Federation/UCWA benefit card for Toys For Tots at the Flea Market: Freight Train Freddie defeated "Wild" Bill Garrett ... "Outlaw" Cody Wade wrestled Dr. Doom to a draw ... The Lightning Express defeated Mr. Twilight ... The Black Assassin defeated Brain Scan ... The Black Sudan and Donny York Jr. wrestled to a double-disqualification ... The Hitmen beat Jammin' Jonnie & Slick Willie ... Dr. Doom defeated Brain Scan ... Freight Train Freddie beat The Assassin ... The Black Assassin defeated Mr. Twilight ... Al "Wild Thing" Hardimon pinned The Psycho ... Donny York Jr. beat The Black Sudan in a "Singapore caning" match ... Mr. Albino beat The Dirty Yellow Dog ... Slick Willie & Al Hardimon beat The Hitmen ... Freight Train Freddie won a battle royal. (12-24-94)

—Roy Hasen



## GEORGIA

**ROSSVILLE**—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: Roger Sartain beat Big John Humphries ... Larry Santana pinned The New One Man Gang ... Keith Hart, Frankie Lee, & Chuck Colt defeated Blazing Fury, Mark Pain, & Scotty Fernandez ... Roger Sartain beat Jimmy Sharpe ... Ricky Dye won a battle royal to become the new TWA heavyweight champion. (01-13-95)

—Bill Needham

**ROSSVILLE**—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: Chuck Colt beat Dangerous Danny ... Kenny Arden & Jimmy Sharpe beat Frankie Lee & Rick Justice ... Blazing Fury & Mark Pain beat Big Bubba & John Humphries ... Keith Hart & Chris Steelheart defeated tag team champions Roger Sartain & Jimmy Sharpe to win the belts. (01-06-95)

—Bill Needham

## ILLINOIS

**CHICAGO**—WCW at the Rosemont Horizon: Alex Wright pinned Jean-Paul LeVeque ... TV champion Johnny B. Badd defeated Bunkhouse Buck ... The Nasty Boys defeated World tag team champions Harlem Heat in a non-title match ... U.S. champion Big Van Vader pinned Hacksaw Duggan ... Marcus Alexander Bagwell & The Patriot beat Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma ... Dustin Rhodes defeated Arn Anderson in a bullrope match ... Hulk Hogan & Sting beat Brutus "The Butcher" Beefcake & Avalanche. (12-29-94)

—Brett A. Rude

## KENTUCKY

**ASHLAND**—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: The Buddha beat The Executioner ... Tracey Smothers defeated Bryant Anderson in an "I Quit" match ... Cactus Jack beat Chris Candido in a falls-count-anywhere match ... Buddy Landell beat heavyweight champion Tony Anthony by disqualification ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express & Bobby Blaze beat The Gangstas & D-Lo Brown. (12-30-94)

—Mike Madden

**ERLANGER**—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Peel's Palace: Sean Casey beat Brian Taylor ... Tracey Smothers beat Bryant Anderson in an "I Quit" match ... Cactus Jack pinned Chris Candido in a falls-count-anywhere match ... Buddy Landell beat heavyweight champion Tony Anthony by disqualification ... Tag team champions The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat The Gangstas ... Cactus Jack won a battle royal. (12-29-94)

—Homer Earleson

## MICHIGAN

**TAYLOR**—Midwest Territorial Wrestling at the Sheridan Community Center: Scott D'Amore beat Denny Kass ... J.T. Lightning (with "Handsome" Johnny Bradford) defeated Andy Fish ... Rico Rodriguez beat Bobby Clancy ... Rock Stevens (with Johnny Bradford) beat Bobo Brazil Jr. ... Calabera Cortez defeated Steve Nixon ... Bruiser Bedlam (with Johnny Bradford) beat Mickey Doyle to win the heavyweight championship (previous champion Mike Kelly vacated the title due to a back injury) ... Al Snow & Ray Roberts defeated tag team champions Chris Carter & Mohammad Saad to win the belts. In compliance with a prematch stipulation, Carter and Saad can no longer compete as a team in MTW. (01-21-95)

—Gary Woronchak

## NEW YORK

**NEW YORK**—WWF at Madison Square Garden: Henry Godwinn pinned Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly ... "Man O' War" Aldo Montoya pinned Steven Dunn ... World Women's champion Bull Nakano pinned Alundra Blayze ... World champion Diesel pinned Jeff Jarrett (with The Roadie & Shawn Michaels) ... The Undertaker pinned Tatanka ... Duke "The Dumpster" Droese (with Dick Murdoch) pinned Timothy Well in 11 seconds ... Lex Luger & Davey Boy Smith defeated King Kong Bundy & Bam Bam Bigelow by disqualification ... Bret Hart beat Owen Hart by submission in a no-holds-barred match. (01-16-95)

—Court Henning-Bauer

## NORTH CAROLINA

**WESTFIELD**—AIWF at the Old Westfield School Gym: In the first round of a tournament for the vacant tag team title: Justice Inc. beat King Cobra & Night Breed ... Dixie Dynamite defeated The Phantom & Roadblock Rex. In a second-round match: The Tennessee Violence Authority defeated Jumpin' Jimmy & Major Havoc. In non-tournament matches: Indian Outlaw defeated U.S. champion Robert Roma by countout ... Don Carson won a battle royal, last eliminating Sebastian Kane. (01-21-95)

—Dean Puckett

**ATKINSON**—ICW at the Old Atkinson School: Austin Steele beat James Strader ... Ricky Rhodes beat "Wild" Bill Armstrong ... Dark Star beat George South by disqualification ... Heavyweight champion "Ironman" Mike Majors and "Mean" Marc Ash wrestled to a double-countout ... "Mean" Marc Ash & George South defeated "Ironman" Mike Majors & Dark Star to win the vacant tag team belts (The Real Deal were stripped of the belts for failing to appear for their scheduled title defense). (01-14-95)

—Marcus Watkins

**NORTH WILKESBORO**—AIWF at the Armory: Roadblock Rex defeated Pete Powers ... Lightweight champion Daniel Lee beat King Cobra ... U.S. champion Robert Roma defeated The Indian Outlaw ... In the first round of a tournament for the vacant tag team title: Jumpin' Jimmy & Major Havoc beat The Ring Warriors ... The Tennessee Violence Authority defeated The Executive & The Electric Angel ... The Tennessee Intimidators defeated Bad Brad & Brian Danzig. (01-14-95)

—Dean Puckett

**SELMA**—Southern Championship Wrestling at the Elementary School: Ricky Lee & Ice beat David Renegade & Night Breed ... Viper pinned The Intruder (managed by Count Grog) ... Timber The Lumberjack and David Renegade wrestled to a double-countout ... Gorgeous George III pinned Mike Youngblood. During the match, the ring broke and the rest of the card was canceled. After the match, however, Count Grog attacked Youngblood and all the wrestlers on the card got into a brawl. (01-14-95)

—Brian Ulman

**CREEDMOOR**—Southern Championship Wrestling at the Hawley Middle School: Preston Steele beat Ice ... Bounty Hunter wrestled The Intruder (managed by Count Grog) to a double-disqualification ... Tag team champions The Rat Pack beat Pat & C.W. Anderson ... Boris Dragoff (managed by Count Grog) pinned Poison Ivy ... Ricky Lee pinned Col. DeBeers (managed by Count Grog) ... In the finals of a

tournament to crown the first SCW heavy-weight champion: Boris Dragoff pinned Ricky Lee to win the title. (01-07-95)

—Debbie Jermyn

**ROCKINGHAM**—Atlantic Championship Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: Hammer Man pinned Mad Dog Davidson ... Pat Friday defeated Dale Porter ... The Heartbreak Express beat Chief Red Thunder & Mike Youngblood ... Mid-Atlantic champion Tim Blayze wrestled Billy Jack Black to a double-countout ... Wahoo McDaniel & "Lightning" Les Parker beat tag team champions The East Coast Connection, but the referee saw a chain in Parker's hand after the pin and reversed the decision, giving it to The East Coast Connection by disqualification ... Les Parker & Robbie Alman were declared co-winners of a battle royal when they went over the top rope simultaneously. (01-07-95)

—Jerry McNeil

**WALLACE**—ICW at the Armory: Brent Maverick beat Agent Steel ... Johnny Dollars beat Kevin Reed ... The Real Deal beat The Lightning Express ... Dark Star pinned Eliminator ... "Iron" Mike Majors pinned "Mean" Marc Ash to win the vacant heavyweight title. (12-31-94)

—Marcus Watkins

**TAYLORSVILLE**—Pro Wrestling Federation at the National Guard Armory: Russian Assassin II beat The Southern Rocker ... Tyrone Knox beat The Texas Outlaw ... Damage Inc. beat Chris Hamrick & Brian Williams ... Austin Steele & Terry Austin defeated Star Ryder & Flaming Youth ... Masked Maniac won a battle royal. (12-25-94)

—Julie Young

## OHIO

**BARBERTON**—North American Wrestling Federation at the High School: Mid-American heavyweight champion Lou Marconi defeated Frank Stalletto by disqualification when Notorious Norm interfered ... Brett Powers & T.C. Reynolds beat The Preacher Man & The Count (managed by Flex) ... The Green Hornet pinned heavyweight champion Super Destroyer to regain the title he had lost two nights earlier ... TNT pinned The Red Rocker ... Light heavyweight champion Jesse Salica wrestled to a double-countout with American junior heavyweight champion Lord Zoltan ... Chief Red Cloud won a 10-man tag team elimination match. (01-21-95)

—Jeff Gorman

**CLEVELAND**—WCW at the Cleveland State University Convocation Center: Alex Wright pinned Bobby Eaton ... Johnny B. Badd pinned Jean-Paul LeVeque ... Marcus Alexander Bagwell & The Patriot defeated Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma when Bagwell pinned Patriot ... The Nasty Boys defeated World tag team champions Harlem Heat by disqualification when Sherri Martel interfered ... U.S. champion Big Van Vader pinned Hacksaw Duggan ... Sting defeated Avalanche by disqualification. (01-20-95)

—Jeff Gorman

## OKLAHOMA

**MOORE**—Power Zone Wrestling Alliance at the Main Event Arena: Stagger Lee beat Randy Rhodes by disqualification ... Casey Cannon defeated Super X by disqualification ... Billy Phoenix defeated Shawn Summers (managed by Mr. Sawyer) by disqualification ... Rick Garrett pinned Rick Valentine ... Bonecrusher



Steve defeated Oklahoma champion **Psycho** to win the title ... **Tom Jones** defeated **TNT** in a strap match ... **The Brotherhood Of Pain** defeated tag team champions **The Pony Express** to win the belts. (01-15-95)

—Clark Peterson

## PENNSYLVANIA

**PITTSBURGH**—WCW at Civic Arena: **Alex Wright** beat **Bobby Eaton** ... **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** & **The Patriot** defeated **Paul Orndorff** & **Paul Roma** ... **Sting** beat **Avalanche** by disqualification ... **Johnny B. Badd** beat **Jean-Paul LeVeque** ... U.S. champion **Big Van Vader** beat **Hacksaw Duggan** ... **The Nasty Boys** beat World tag team champions **Harlem Heat** by disqualification when **Sherri Martel** interfered. (01-22-95)

—Charles Penner

**PHILADELPHIA**—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the ECW Arena: **Steve Richards** pinned **Hack Myers** ... **Al Snow** pinned **Osamu Nishimura** ... **2 Cold Scorpio** defeated **The Sandman** (with **Woman**) ... **Paul Lauria** (with **Jason**) beat **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **The Pit Bulls** defeated **Ian** & **Axl Rotten**. After the match, **Axl** turned against **Ian** and the two brawled ... **J.T. Smith** pinned **Chad Austin** ... Heavyweight champion **Shane Douglas** wrestled **Tully Blanchard** to a 60-minute time-limit draw ... **911**, **Tasmaniac**, & **Sabu** (with **Paul E. Dangerously**) beat **Dean Malenko**, **Chris Benoit**, and **Public Enemy** in a handicap match when **Tasmaniac** pinned **Johnny Grunge**. (01-07-95)

—Bart Orkline

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**INMAN**—Pro Wrestling Federation at the National Guard Armory: **Greg Hart** beat **Russian Assassin II** ... **Johnny Dollar** defeated **Black Scorpion** ... **Chris Hamrick** & **Chief Jay Eagle** beat **Damage Inc.** by disqualification ... Tag team champions **Austin Steele** & **Terry Austin** beat **Flaming Youth** & **Star Ryder** ... Heavyweight champion **Italian Stallion** defeated "Ravishing" **Randy Sledge** ... **Greg Hart** won a battle royal. (01-07-95)

—Dan Parris

## TENNESSEE

**ELIZABETHTON**—All-Pro Wrestling at the Gap Creek Community Center: **The Stalker** and **Great Tiny** wrestled to a time-limit draw ... **Super Mario** pinned **Big Boss** ... **Mike Fair**, **Tank**, and **Red Man** beat **The Troublemakers** and **The Evil One** ... **The Crow** & **The Stallion** beat **Nitro** & **The Mauler** ... **Alex Shane** beat heavyweight champion **Chainz** by disqualification ... **The Ghost Riders** defeated **Mike** & **Sam Spade** ... Tag team champions **Eddie Golden** & **Stan Lee** defeated **Jimmy Valiant** & **Dan Cooley**. (01-21-95)

—Bill Needham

**ELIZABETHTON**—All-Pro Wrestling at the Gap Creek Community Center: **Tiny** & **The Stalker** beat **The Troublemakers** ... Lightweight champion **The Stallion** defeated **Allen King** ... **Eddie Golden** beat **The Crow** ... **Chainz** won an eight-man elimination match ... U.S. champion **Chris Steelheart** beat **Ghost Rider** in a log chain match ... **Tim Horner** beat **Stan Lee**. (01-07-95)

—Bill Needham

**MORRISTOWN**—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the East High School: **Tracey Smothers** beat

**Bryant Anderson** in an "I Quit" match ... **Chris Candido** beat **Boo Bradley** ... **Buddy Landell** beat heavyweight champion **Tony Anthony** by disqualification ... Tag team champions **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **The Gangstas** ... **Tracey Smothers** won a battle royal. (01-21-95)

—Bill Needham

**FALL BRANCH**—Southern States Wrestling at the Sampson Center: **Eddie Bruiser** beat **The Storm Trooper** ... **Roger Anderson** & **David Lynch** wrestled **Frank Parker** & **Scotty McKeever** to a no-contest ... **Stan Lee** beat **Bam Bam Christian** ... **Steve Flynn** defeated heavyweight champion **Chic White** for the title ... **The Hornet** & **Beau James** beat **David Cash** & **Eddie Bruiser** ... Junior heavyweight champion **Bobby Blayze** beat **Scotty McKeever**. (01-20-95)

—Fay Ferguson

**ALCOA**—Friday Night Main Event Wrestling at the Green Acres Flea Mall: **The Delaware Destroyer** beat **Doctor Dan** by disqualification ... **Bobby B** pinned **Lynn Montana** ... **Rick Connors** beat **Rick Cannon** ... **Regulator Stone** beat **The Alaskan Wolfman** ... **Buddy Landell** pinned **Johnny Raynor** ... **Tom Pitner** and **The Knight Rider** defeated **Tim Reed** & **Mike Powers** by disqualification. (01-19-95)

—Bill Needham

**MEMPHIS**—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Scott Studd** defeated **Tommy Harris** ... **Jack Hammer** (managed by **Diamond Mike**) defeated **Doug Basham** ... **The Moondogs** defeated **Don Bass** & **Reggie B. Fine** ... **Miss Texas** pinned **Sweet Georgia Brown** ... In a match to determine who would get a tag team title shot later on the card, **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** and **PG-13** wrestled to a no-contest. The **Rock 'n' Roll Express** won a coin flip to determine a winner, but decided to give **PG-13** the match ... Tag team champions **Doug Gilbert** & **Tommy Rich** beat **PG-13** ... In a four-man tournament to determine a challenger for heavyweight champion **Sid Vicious** later on the card: **Brian Christopher** defeated **Spellbinder** ... **Jerry Lawler** beat **Bill Dundee** ... **Christopher** beat **Lawler** by disqualification ... Heavyweight champion **Sid Vicious** pinned Southern champion **Brian Christopher** (only **Vicious'** belt was on the line). (01-16-95)

—Mark Mitchell

**MEMPHIS**—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Tony Williams** pinned **Doug Basham** ... **Sweet Georgia Brown** pinned **Miss Texas** ... **Bill Dundee** defeated **Jimmy Harris** ... **Doug Gilbert** & **Tommy Rich** defeated tag team champions **PG-13** to win the belts. After the match, **Wolfe D** challenged **Gilbert** and **Rich** to return to the ring and give them a rematch, which they did. **PG-13** then defeated **Gilbert** & **Rich** to regain the belts ... Heavyweight champion **Sid Vicious** defeated Southern champion **Brian Christopher** by disqualification ... In a four-team tournament to determine the number-one contenders to the tag team title: **The Moondogs** defeated **The War Machine** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **Don Bass** & **Reggie B. Fine** ... **The Moondogs** and **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** then wrestled to a no-contest. (01-09-95)

—Mark Mitchell

**JOHNSON CITY**—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Freedom Hall: **Bryant Anderson** beat **The Nightmare** ... **Tracey Smothers** defeated **D-**

**Lo Brown** ... **Chris Candido** beat **Boo Bradley** ... Heavyweight champion **Tony Anthony** beat **Buddy Landell** in a no-disqualification match ... Tag team champions **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **The Gangstas** in a lumberjack match ... **Boo Bradley** won a battle royal. (01-14-95)

—Edna Granger

**MEMPHIS**—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Doug Gilbert** beat **Tony Williams** ... Tag team champions **PG-13** beat **Don Bass** & **Reggie B. Fine** ... Southern champion **Tommy Rich** defeated **King Cobra** ... **Bill Dundee** beat **Scott Bowden** ... **The Moondogs** beat **Jimmy** & **Ron Harris** ... Tag team champions **PG-13** beat **Doug Gilbert** & **Tommy Rich** ... **Jerry Lawler** beat **Spellbinder** by disqualification ... **Brian Christopher** beat heavyweight champion **Sid Vicious** by disqualification. (01-02-95)

—Mark Mitchell

**NASHVILLE**—WCW Starrcade pay-per-view at the Municipal Auditorium: **Big Van Vader** (managed by **Harley Race**) pinned U.S. champion **Hacksaw Duggan** in 12:06 to win the title ... **Alex Wright** pinned **Jean-Paul LeVeque** in 14:01 ... TV champion **Johnny B. Badd** pinned **Arn Anderson** (substituting for **The Honky Tonk Man**) in 11:21 ... **The Nasty Boys** defeated World tag team champions **Harlem Heat** (managed by **Sherri Martel**) by disqualification in 17:44 ... **Mr. T** beat **Kevin Sullivan** in 3:48 after **Dave Sullivan** hit **Kevin** with a megaphone ... **Sting** beat **Avalanche** by disqualification in 15:25 ... World champion **Hulk Hogan** pinned **Brutus "The Butcher" Beefcake** in 12:07. (12-27-94)

—Ray Rainford

**KNOXVILLE**—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Civic Coliseum: **The Power Ranger** beat **D-Lo Brown** ... **Tracey Smothers** defeated **Bryant Anderson** in an "I Quit" match ... **Buddy Landell** defeated heavyweight champion **Tony Anthony** by disqualification ... **Cactus Jack** & **Tracey Smothers** (substituting for **Brian Lee**) defeated **Boo Bradley** & **Chris Candido** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** (managed by **Jim Cornette**) defeated tag team champions **The Gangstas** to regain the belts. (12-25-94)

—Dave Jackson

## TEXAS

**MISSION**—World Class Wrestling Federation at The Check Point: **Tugboat Taylor** beat **The Gravedigger** ... **Jason The 13th** beat **Beavis** ... **The American Ranger** beat **Superfly** ... **Mr. Wrestling III** defeated **The Berserker** ... **The Tex-Mex Express** beat **The Neon Ninja** & **Coco Ramirez** ... **Mark Von Erich** beat **The Sheik** (not the original). (01-22-95)

—Brett Wolfe

**FORT HOOD**—WCW at the Abrams Fitness Center: **Alex Wright** beat **Bobby Eaton** ... TV champion **Johnny B. Badd** beat **Jean-Paul LeVeque** ... **Marcus Bagwell** & **The Patriot** defeated **Paul Orndorff** & **Paul Roma** ... **Hacksaw Duggan** beat **Lord Steven Regal** ... **The Nasty Boys** beat World tag team champions **Harlem Heat** by disqualification ... **Sting** defeated **Avalanche** by disqualification. (01-14-95)

—Earl Rogers

**EL PASO**—WWF at the El Paso City Coliseum: **Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly** beat **Henry Godwinn** ... **Duke "The Dumpster" Droese**



defeated **The Minotaur** ... Lex Luger and Tatanka wrestled to a double-countout ... "Man O' War" Aldo Montoya defeated "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi ... The Headshrinkers defeated Timothy Well & Barry Horowitz ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** beat Jeff Jarrett.  
(01-07-95)

—Eric Watson

**DALLAS**—NWA at the Sportatorium: Rod Price defeated **Bo Vegas** ... Chaz Taylor & Bambi beat Alex Porteau & Peggy Lee Leather ... Tony Norris beat Guido Falcone by disqualification ... Dick Murdoch & Black Bart beat Sam Houston & Chris Adams ... North American champion Kevin Von Erich beat **Greg Valentine** by disqualification.  
(01-01-95)

—Jenna Marley

## WISCONSIN

**GREEN BAY**—WWF at the Brown County Expo Center: The Bushwhackers defeated The Heavenly Bodies ... Hakuhi beat The Kid ... King Kong Bundy pinned Adam Bomb ... World champion Diesel pinned Bob Backlund ... Doink the Clown beat Kwang ... Davey Boy Smith defeated Owen Hart ... The Undertaker pinned Irwin R. Schyster.  
(01-07-95)

—Agnès Hammond

## INTERNATIONAL

### CANADA

**JOLIETTE, QUEBEC**—Northern Championship Wrestling at Joliette College: Jason The Terrible beat Martin Roy by disqualification ... Frank Blues defeated Crazy Eddie ... Iceman beat Phil Belanger by countout ... Power & Speed beat tag team champions The Crazy Dragons to win the belts ... Cowboy Bob, Syl Dancer, The Cannibal, & Boris Khrushchev beat Alexander The Magnificent, The Ninja, Lucifer, & Golem The Great ... Quebec heavyweight champion Dream Killer defeated Black Bear.  
(01-21-95)

—Bertrand Hebert

**JOLIETTE, QUEBEC**—Northern Championship Wrestling at Joliette College: The Jet Set beat Cannibal & Boris Khrushchev ... Frank Blues beat Golem The Giant ... The Rebel beat Chameleon ... Cowboy Bob & Syl Dancer defeated Alexander The Magnificent & Lucifer ... Black Bear beat Inner-City champion Phil Belanger by submission in a lumberjack match to win the title ... Quebec champion Dream Killer defeated Iceman & Crazy Eddie in a "triangular" match.  
(01-14-95)

—Bertrand Hebert

**JOLIETTE, QUEBEC**—Northern Championship Wrestling at Joliette College: Alexander the Magnificent beat Boris Khrushchev ... Crazy Eddie won a tag team elimination match, ousting Headhunters I & II and The Ninja ... Cowboy Bob beat Ghlem the Giant ... Dream Killer beat Syl Dancer ... Power & Speed defeated Lucifer & Alexander the Magnificent in a "Texas Tornado" match ... Black Bear defeated Phil Belanger ... The Crazy Dragons defeated tag team champions Iceman & Frank Blues by disqualification to win the title. The belts were allowed to change hands because the match was contested under "Province Of Quebec" rules, which allow titles to change on countouts and disqualifications.  
(01-07-95)

—Bertrand Hebert

**WINDSOR, ONTARIO**—Border City Wrestling at the Greek Community Center: Rick Matrix defeated Brian Rollins ... The Canadian Destroyer & Mad Max beat Rico Rodriguez & Steve Nixon ... Denny Kass wrestled Abraham The Lebanese Prince to a double-countout ... Otis Apollo defeated Bobby Clancy ... Ric Austin & Mike Legacy beat Chris Pillon & Tommy Wonder ... Scott D'Amore defeated Rock Stevens ... Can-Am champion Mickey Doyle defeated Al Snow.  
(01-20-95)

—Gary Woronchak

**CALGARY, ALBERTA**—Canadian Rocky Mountain Wrestling at the Victoria Park Community Center: Katana beat Flip Lee ... Black Bart beat Don McCullough ... Super Kungo beat Fernando Valentino ... S.S. Squad beat Eric Freeze & Jason Helton ... Johnny Lee Coultrain beat Steve Rivers ... Jerry Morrow beat Rick Titan.  
(01-13-95)

—Andy Williams

## JAPAN

**TOKYO**—All-Japan at Korakuen Hall: Tommy Dreamer beat Ryukaku Isumida ... Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton beat Kentaro Shiga & Yoshinari Ogawa ... Giant Baba, Rusher Kimura, & Mitsuo Momota beat Mighty Inoue, Haruka Eigen, & Masa Fuchi ... Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas beat Abdullah the Butcher & Giant Kamala II ... Steve Williams & Johnny Ace beat Stan Hansen & Johnny Smith.  
(01-03-95)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY APRIL

### MASSACHUSETTS

**BOSTON**—WWF at Boston Garden: Chief Jay Strongbow beat Smasher Sloan ... Oswald Costa defeated Henry DePaula ... Ricky Sexton defeated Juan Caruso ... Manuel Soto pinned The Black Demon ... Sky Low Low & Little Brutus beat Sonny Boy Hayes & The Haiti Kid in a best-of-three-falls midget tag team match ... World champion Bruno Sammartino defeated Prof. Toru Tanaka.  
(4-29-72)

—PWI archives

### OKLAHOMA

**TULSA**—UWF at the Myriad: Brett Sawyer beat Gustavo Mendoza ... Kamala beat Rick Gibson ... Korchenko defeated Perry Jackson ... Koko B. Ware defeated Rick Steiner ... The Fantastics & Terry Taylor defeated The Shepherders & Jack Victory ... David Peterson beat Gustavo Mendoza ... Buzz Sawyer beat Tracey Smothers ... Jack Victory beat Steve Williams ... Hacksaw Duggan beat Dick Slater ... Kamala beat Perry Jackson.  
(04-13-86)

—PWI archives

### PENNSYLVANIA

**McKEESPORT**—WWWF at the Palisades: The Sicilians defeated Johnny Defazio & Dominic DeNucci in a best-of-three-falls match ... Frank Holtz defeated Bill Terry ... Andy Martin defeated Bull Johnson ... George Steele wrestled The Batman to a double-disqualification.  
(04-07-69)

—Jack Gherman

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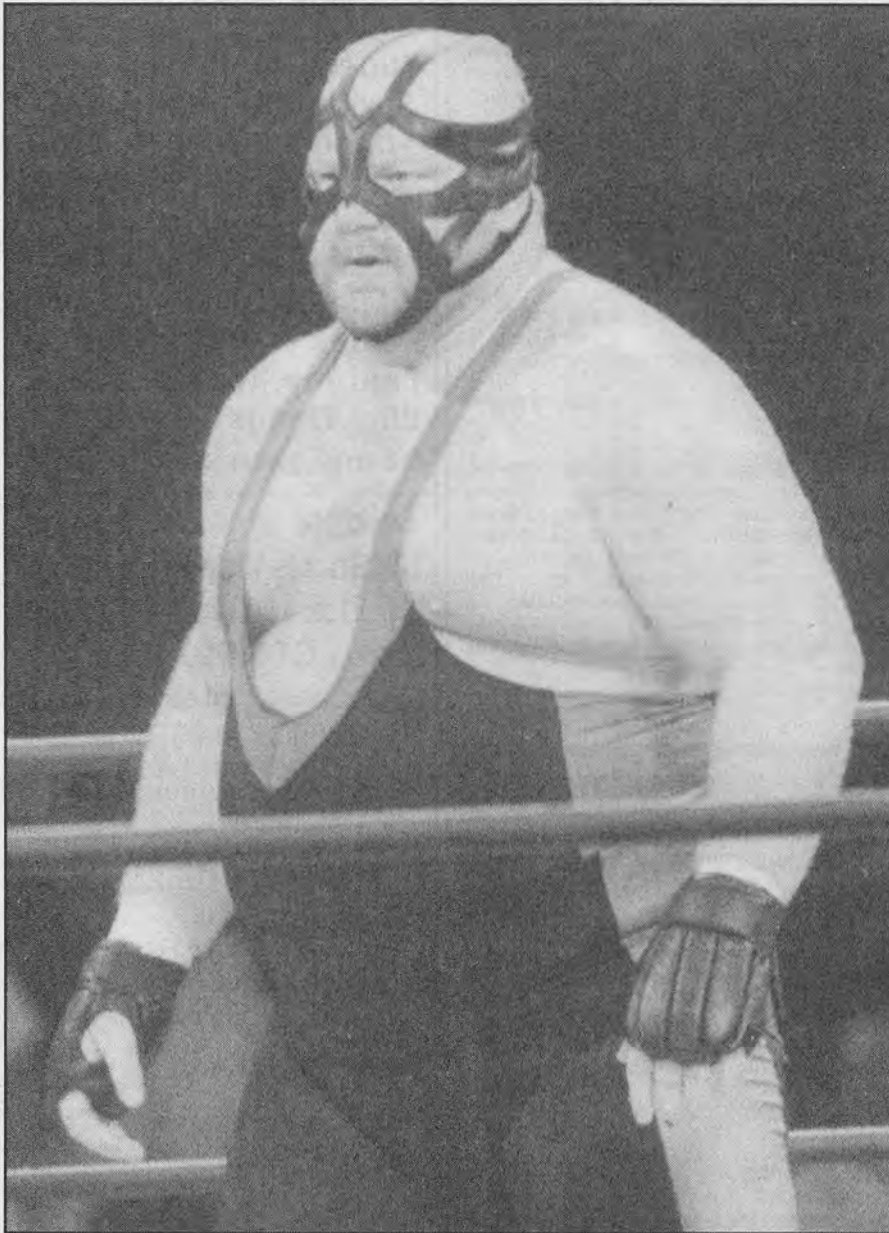
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## off the top rope

(Continued from page 16)



This, wrestling fans, is the closest thing to a wrestling god that you'll find in this world. Pay homage to him often. He is the force that will finally end "Hulkamania".

murderer Jeffrey Dahmer finished first, while O.J., as of press time unconvicted anywhere else but in the press, was third. I was number 12, for having a "warped, backward view of professional wrestling." Rosenbaum, living in a trailer park somewhere in the Everglades, did not make his own list, even though his wife, who agreed to marriage on the assumption Rosenbaum

would actually do something with his life, has a list of her own I'd like to publish.

Dear Eddie,

When will you wrestle Bill Apter?

COLIN DANIELS

Delanco, NJ

Dear Colin,

After he's de-loused, de-flead, and de-Aptered.

Dear Eddie,

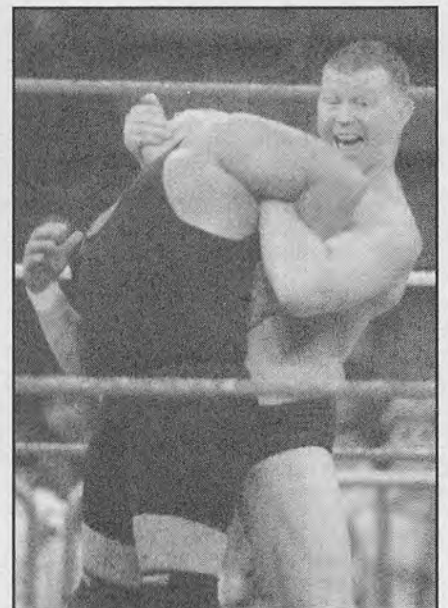
Is Bob Backlund's place in history secure? Don't you think the fact that he is currently a rulebreaking madman will eradicate the great record he compiled when he was WWF World champion?

TERESA HOROWITZ

Culver City, CA

Dear Teresa,

Quite the contrary, you sweet-peppered little Italian-Jewish knish-princess. Does that appellation offend you? Good. I'm practicing for the road trip. I figure three racist or sexist remarks every 75 miles will drive Liz from the car before Pittsburgh. Backlund's latest star turn secured his place in history. Before this latest incarnation, Backlund was in danger of disappearing from the history books, like invisible ink, due to lack of interest. Now, having conquered the world twice, once as Jeckyl, now as Hyde, his immortality is assured. ☐



How would you rather be remembered, as a Howdy Doody-type clean-cut fan favorite, or as a maniac who chicken-winged everything that moved? You made the right choice, Mr. Backlund!



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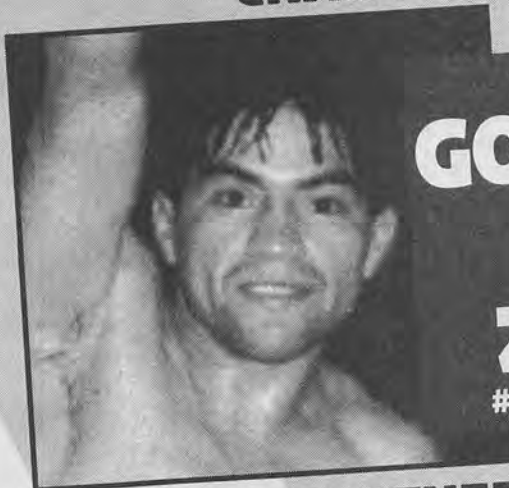
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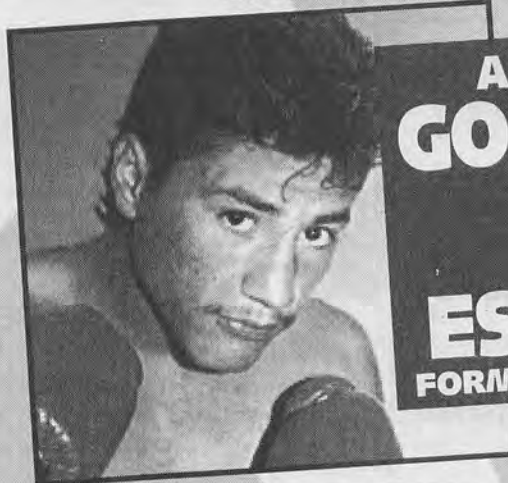


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## between falls

(Continued from page 5)



Diesel crushed Bob Backlund to win the WWF World title in November, and "PWI Hotline" caller Alisa Pommaran thinks he'll handle the pressure that goes with being champion very well.

pendent federations in all wrestling magazines. In *PWI* and its sister magazines, I only find information about the WWF, WCW, ECW, the USWA, and Smoky Mountain Wrestling. I think that it is unjust and unfair that independent federations don't get more publicity. Some great wrestlers don't receive well-deserved coverage.

In the last several months, I have attended some Atlantic Wrestling Federation cards, and I must say that they have some of the best young talent in wrestling today. The battles between U.S. champion Rockin' Rico and former champion Mike Justice are unbelievable. Rico's high-flying maneuvers and Justice's power moves

are nothing less than spectacular. Both of them, along with Rob Van Dam and Chazz Rocco, are surely WWF and WCW material. They could beat some of the current wrestlers in those federations and give the superstars a run for their money.

STEVE BENJAMIN  
Myrtle Beach, SC

### ⚡ DIESEL'S DESTINY

I disagree with your article "Diesel Dazed! Why He Can't Handle The Pressure Of Being WWF Champ" (April 1995). It may not seem like it right now, but Diesel has all the necessary ingredients to become a great world champion. He has the size, strength, and charisma to be one of the best ever. Sure, he may be a little uncertain about

himself and the pressures that go along with defending the WWF World belt, but Diesel has been through so much turmoil in the past few months that he has a right to feel a little doubtful. He has never been through anything like this before alone. I am sure that once he gets used to his new position and duties, he'll be a fine champion to lead the WWF into the next century.

ALISA POMMARAN  
Shamokin, PA

### ⚡ EYE OF NEWT ...

Yes, the Devil, Jeffrey Dahmer, and Elvis are definitely having a snowball fight tonight! ("Hell Freezes Over! Jim Cornette Manages The



Bull Nakano makes a great WWF World Women's champion, says reader Ernie Hauser. He thinks that female Japanese wrestlers are generally more intense than their American counterparts.



World women's title just proves that the Japanese take their wrestling seriously ("Bull-Dozed! Alundra Blayze Dethroned By Nakano Before 43,000 In Tokyo," April 1995). Alundra Blayze was a great champion and competitor, but she cannot match the intensity of female wrestlers in Japan. For the most part, Japanese fans are dedicated to the sport like no one else in the world. The cards in Japan are spectacular events that even the American super shows like WrestleMania cannot try to compare.

No matter what anyone says, Bull Nakano is just a sign of the future for wrestling: Japan.

ERNIE HAUSER  
San Bernardino, CA □

Rock 'n' Roll Express," April 1995). Jim Cornette managing The Rock 'n' Roll Express in Smoky Mountain Wrestling is a true travesty. How could he do such a thing to himself? Not only has he disgraced himself in society's eyes, but he has also turned his back against the few fans who have supported him in his battles against the Rock 'n' Trolls for a decade. Now, Cornette is even more despicable than that other Southern loudmouth, Newt Gingrich. I wonder what "pearl of wisdom" Connie Chung could get Newt's Mother to say (mistakenly, of course) about Cornette?!

MARLENA SCHOCK  
Marietta, GA

## MISSING CLOWNS

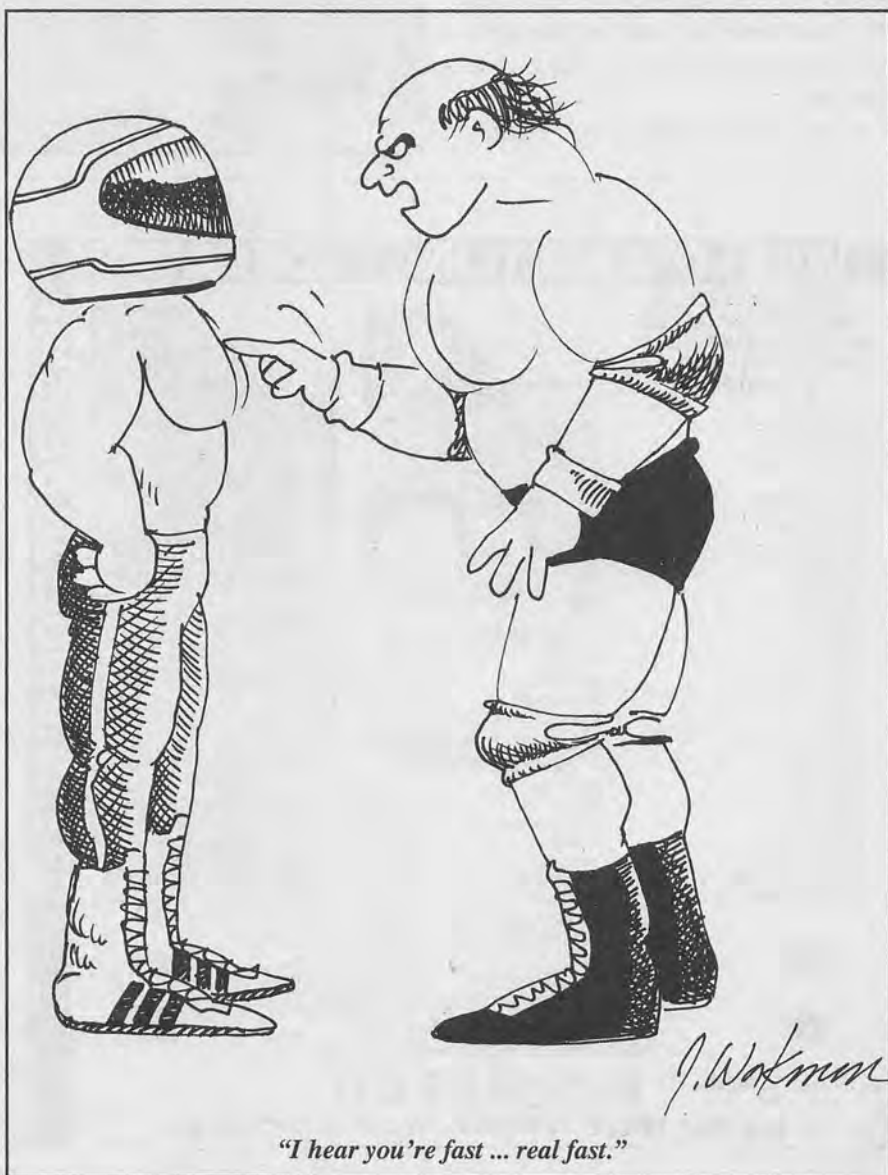
What is going on with Doink and Dink? They haven't been around much lately. Before, every time you turned around, they were on television or in the ring. I hope Jerry "The King" Lawler didn't run them back to the circus. Even though everyone made fun of them, Doink and Dink made wrestling fun for the fans. At least their behavior was acceptable since they were clowns. There are some wrestlers that act like total idiots without the use of face paint or a clown outfit.

I miss the clowns. Bring them back from wherever they went. I miss their clowning around and their unique style of wrestling.

HELEN WINSOR  
Erie, PA

## THAT'S NO BULL

Bull Nakano winning the WWF





# steiners

(Continued from page 37)

and we're going to bounce back this time, too," Scott said. "I know a lot of people have been missing us, because we get lots of letters from fans, and I just want to let everybody know that we've been staying sharp in Japan, and we're ready for a big comeback. We learned a lot there, too. We faced a lot of great aerial wrestlers and picked up some new moves and techniques. *Nothing's* going to stop us when we come back."

The best hope for The Nasty Boys, Harlem Heat, and Marcus Alexander Bagwell and The Patriot is that the Steiners stop themselves. That's unlikely, but not out of the question.

"You know something, I don't

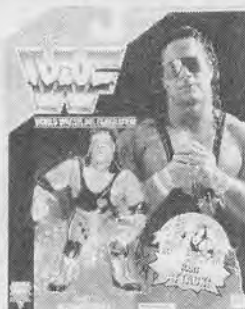


Will Rick Steiner be able to execute this kind of move on, say, The Nasty Boys or Harlem Heat? We should find out soon, but most people seem to think the Steiners are every bit as tough as they used to be.

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think they have it anymore," said broadcaster Bobby Heenan. "I think they went to Japan because they were washed-up, got talked into making a comeback, and now they're going to fall flat on their faces. You can't just leave and then come back any time you want. Every time you step away, you lose something."

Sure, "Brain," tell it to Hulk Hogan, who keeps stepping away, coming back, and adding to his resume. Or tell it to Bob Backlund, who regained the WWF World title 11 years after he lost it. Tell it to George Foreman, who had no trouble regaining his killer instinct in the boxing ring.

"They'll do fine," Dusty Rhodes said. "Rick and Scott are two boys who will never lose the inner fire, and if they did, they wouldn't embarrass themselves. They'd just ride off into the sunset."

The sun isn't setting on their careers. The Steiners are back, and the best bet of the year is that they're tougher than ever. □



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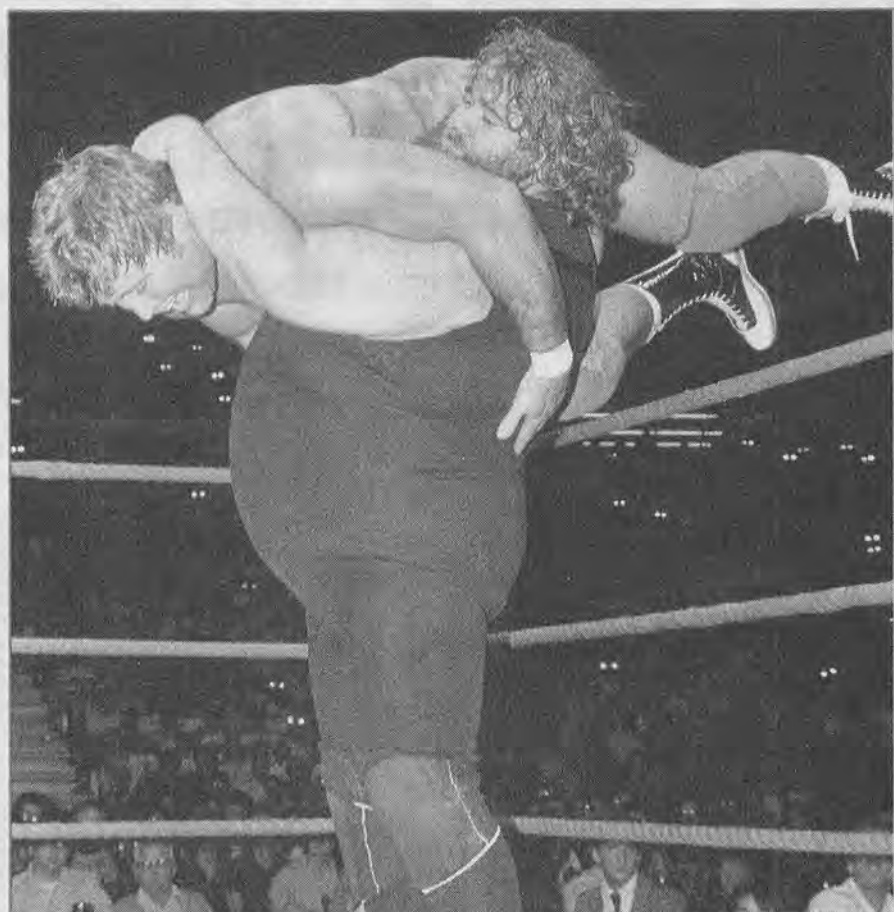


## ringside

(Continued from page 7)

he has not been given any title shots at the World championship. We're told Tunney stammered and stuttered his way through the meeting and almost seemed embarrassed because he had no explanation for the popular star ... If I were **Shawn Michaels**, I would pick **911** as my new bodyguard ... **Man Mountain Rock**, who was formerly known as **Maxx Payne**, is busy writing new ring entrance music for several of the WWF's top superstars.

**Jim Ross** has to be the busiest broadcaster in wrestling. Besides doing commentary on many of the WWF broadcasts, Ross still does the announcing on Smoky Mountain Wrestling telecasts along with **Les Thatcher**. We don't know how long that will last, because the WWF keeps increasing Ross' duties.



The wrestling world is mourning the loss of Jerry "Crusher" Blackwell, who died at the age of 45. He is survived by his wife, Nellie, four children, and 13 grandchildren.

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**Bill Dundee** says WWF fans are writing to him "by the thousands, begging me to come and kick Lawler's butt!" Although he has received no formal offer from the federation, Dundee says he expects one to be coming his way very soon.

**Gorgeous George III** (that's right, he claims to be the grandson of the original **Gorgeous George**) has entered the USWA. "They've never seen anyone as lovely and as talented as me," he boasted. "I plan on winning the heavyweight title. My granddad would be proud."

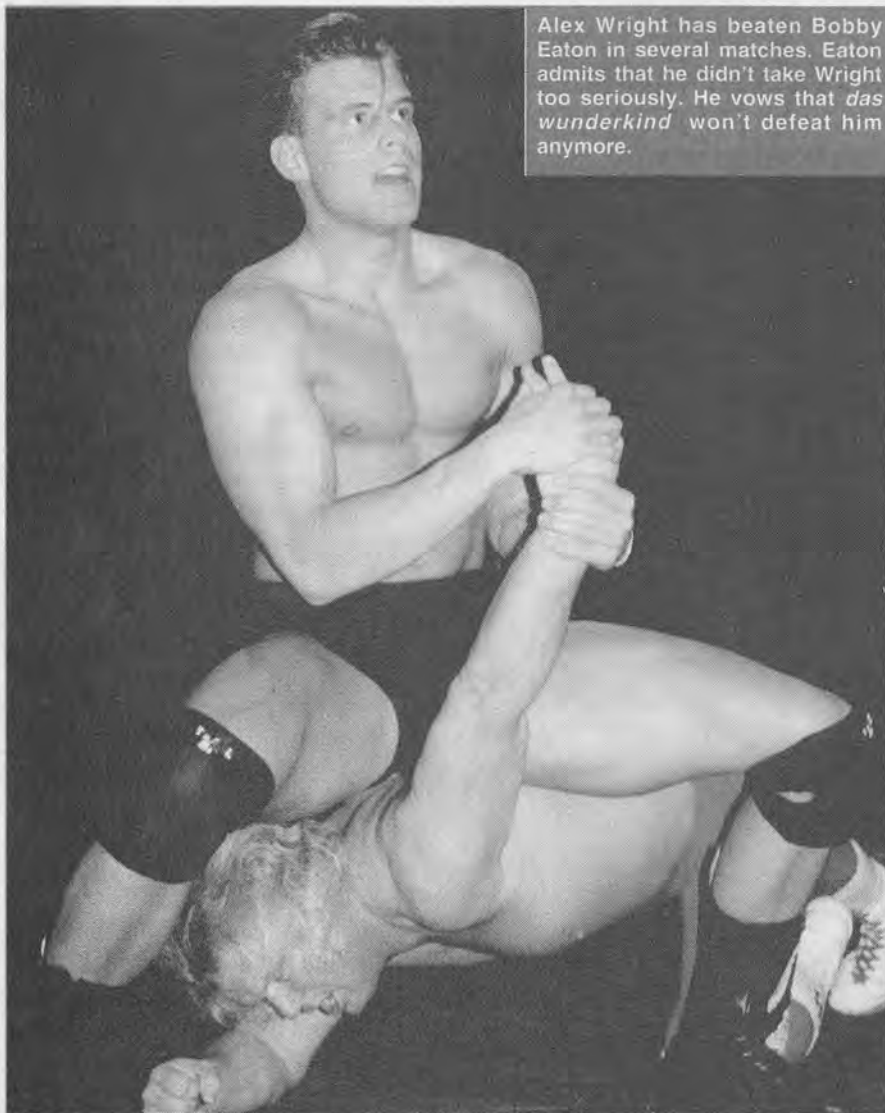
"**Outlaw**" **Max Crimson** has joined forces with "**Maniac**" **Jimmy Deo**; they are calling themselves **Assault and Battery** ... Since his impressive performance in the 1995 Royal Rumble, a semi-retired **Dick**

**Murdoch** tells me he is considering wrestling full-time again. "I can beat any of those WWF geeks, if they have the guts to take me on one-on-one," he says.

**Bobby Eaton** admits that he took his recent series of matches against "**Das Wunderkind**" **Alex Wright** too lightly. "I thought I could beat the kid without even training," Eaton reported. "I won't make the mistake again. I'm about to make his young career history. He won't be doing any dancing when I get through with him!"

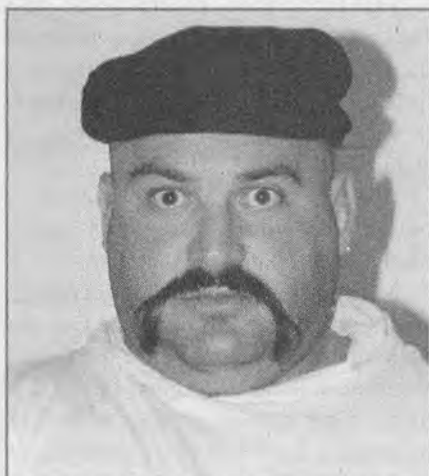
Publisher **Stu Saks** spoke recently with **Joe Lopez**, the attorney representing the WWF's insurance company in the Charles Austin case. Austin, if you'll recall, was awarded a judgment of \$26.7-million last year in





Alex Wright has beaten Bobby Eaton in several matches. Eaton admits that he didn't take Wright too seriously. He vows that *das wunderkind* won't defeat him anymore.

his case against the WWF for crippling injuries suffered in a match against **Marty Jannetty** in 1990. According to Lopez, the appeal will be



Bruiser Bedlam is the Midwest Territorial Wrestling champion, but maybe not for long.

resolved within the next few months and that they are extremely optimistic.

You have to feel for Austin, who can barely get around these days, but certainly he knew the risks of being a professional wrestler. The damages award was way out of line!

Since **Bruiser Bedlam** entered the WWF, Midwest Territorial Wrestling officials have repeatedly warned him that he risks being stripped of the MTW heavyweight title if he doesn't defend it at least once every 30 days. "They can threaten Bruiser all they want!" exclaimed Cornette, who manages Bedlam in the WWF. "The fact is, when he beats Diesel for the WWF title, and **Jeff Jarrett** for the Intercontinental title, then when he and **Mantaur** win the tag

team belts, he won't need their rinky dink piece of tin!"

Because the WWF has not put them in the ring together, **King Kong Bundy** and his former friend **Adam Bomb** have signed contracts to wrestle each other in the Massachusetts-based International Wrestling Federation. "We stand for different things," said Bomb. "I thought Bundy was a real man, but some of the dirty things I've seen him do in the ring make me want to tear him apart. And the way he treats the fans—it's downright disgusting." Because he likes to be in the middle of a good brawl, veteran **Killer Kowalski** will referee that series of matches.

Mid-Atlantic Wrestling promoter **Doug Ward**, along with photographer **Floyd See**, are planning "Night Of The Superstars—A Starrcade Reunion." It is scheduled to take place on April 8 at the Harrisonburg, Virginia, High School. At press time, Ward was negotiating with **Ric Flair**, **Lou Thesz**, **Dory** and **Terry Funk**, **Wahoo McDaniel**, **Tully Blanchard**, **Baron Von Raschke**, and others to appear. The card will be a benefit for the Pleasant View Home for mentally retarded adults of Harrisonburg.

That's all for now, fans. I'll see you at ringside! □

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## from the desk of...

(Continued from page 8)

"9-1-1," I said slowly.

Ah, the lie. Nobody bats .911. 911 didn't bat 911. Later, in fact, I couldn't even verify the claim that he played semi-pro ball. Just to humor him, though, I did pursue the dialogue in the car.

"Why did you stop playing ball if you were so good?" I asked.

"I got thrown out of the league," he responded, "for choke-slammng a damned umpire."

I should have know.

\*\*\*

Whether or not 911 is really going to try out for the Phillies I don't know, but I wouldn't want to be the one to tell him he's not good enough to play! In the meantime, the conversation started me thinking just how an all-star baseball team of professional wrestlers would shape up.

**First base:** 911. If his self-professed .911 is only a half-truth, then I'd be more than satisfied with .455. At 6'7", he can reach for the high infield throws.

**Second base:** Brian Pillman. Tremendous lateral movement will be a huge asset with the statue-like 911 playing first. Could have played baseball at the University of Miami (Ohio), but felt it best to concentrate on football.

**Shortstop:** Sabu. Perfect pivot man on the double-play. Won't bail out when the baserunner comes in with spikes flying in an attempt to stop him from throwing to first to complete the DP. Speedster who can steal 50.

**Third base:** Arn Anderson. I don't know if he could hit, run, or field, but Arn does bear a striking resemblance to Matt Williams.

**Left field:** Sting. Blessed with



Jerry Lawler has played someone softball in his day, but he'd make a pretty good replacement team catcher. He'd be especially good at firing insults at opposing hitter as he crouched behind the plate.

power, speed, and athletic grace, Sting can cover ground in the outfield and belt homers as well. Perfect number-three hitter to protect cleanup man ...

**Right field:** Sid Vicious. Some people called him batty after he screwed up his WCW career by getting into a hotel room melee with Arn Anderson, but he has also shown that he knows how to handle a bat. There is, of course, a huge difference between softball and baseball, but I'd take a chance on his power.

**Center field:** Randy Savage. Played first base and catcher in the minor leagues, but he'd be needed in the outfield on this squad. Switch-hitting line drive gap hitter and a heady baserunner who will always take the extra base and

stretch doubles into triples against weak-armed outfielders.

**Catcher:** Jerry Lawler. Another softball type, but has the perfect build—and mouth—to play backstop. Would be able to distract batters with one-liners about their families. Not a big powerhitter, but could belt 15 dingers and drive in 75.

**Designated hitter:** Big Van Vader. Plays the same position in the wrestling ring. Nuff said.

**Pitchers:** Abe "Knuckleball" Schwartz. Anybody who loves the game of baseball enough to embarrass himself in a wrestling ring must have something going for him.

Abdullah the Butcher: Gaylord Perry pitched till he was a fat 45-year-old with little more than a decent arm and an assortment of foreign objects to doctor the ball. Abdullah may be a little older and a little fatter, but he's got Perry beat by a mile in the

foreign object department.

**Jushin Liger:** Every year the Japanese close the talent gap between the themselves and the U.S. players a little bit more. Liger, from all accounts, is a Japanese Ron Guidry: small in stature, but can really bring it.

**Abbudah Singh:** Unscrupulous fireballer who would throw at his own brother to keep him off the plate.

**Manager:** Paul E. Dangerously. Has studied the mindsets of George Steinbrenner, Pat Riley, and the Grand Wizard. Will get the most out of his players for a season or two, before grating, demeaning style turns them against him. Has to learn when to shut his mouth so he can avoid being thumbed by the umpires. □



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**Sting hails from which California beach community?**

- 1) Malibu
- 2) Pacific Heights
- 3) Venice Beach
- 4) Newport Beach

**Who managed The Moondogs to the WWF World tag team title?**

- 1) The Grand Wizard
- 2) Capt. Lou Albano
- 3) Fred Blassie
- 4) Bobby Heenan

**True or False: Rick Steamboat once briefly held the AWA World title.**

- 1) True
- 2) False

**Which of the following wrestlers has never held the WCW television title (as of December 31, 1994)?**

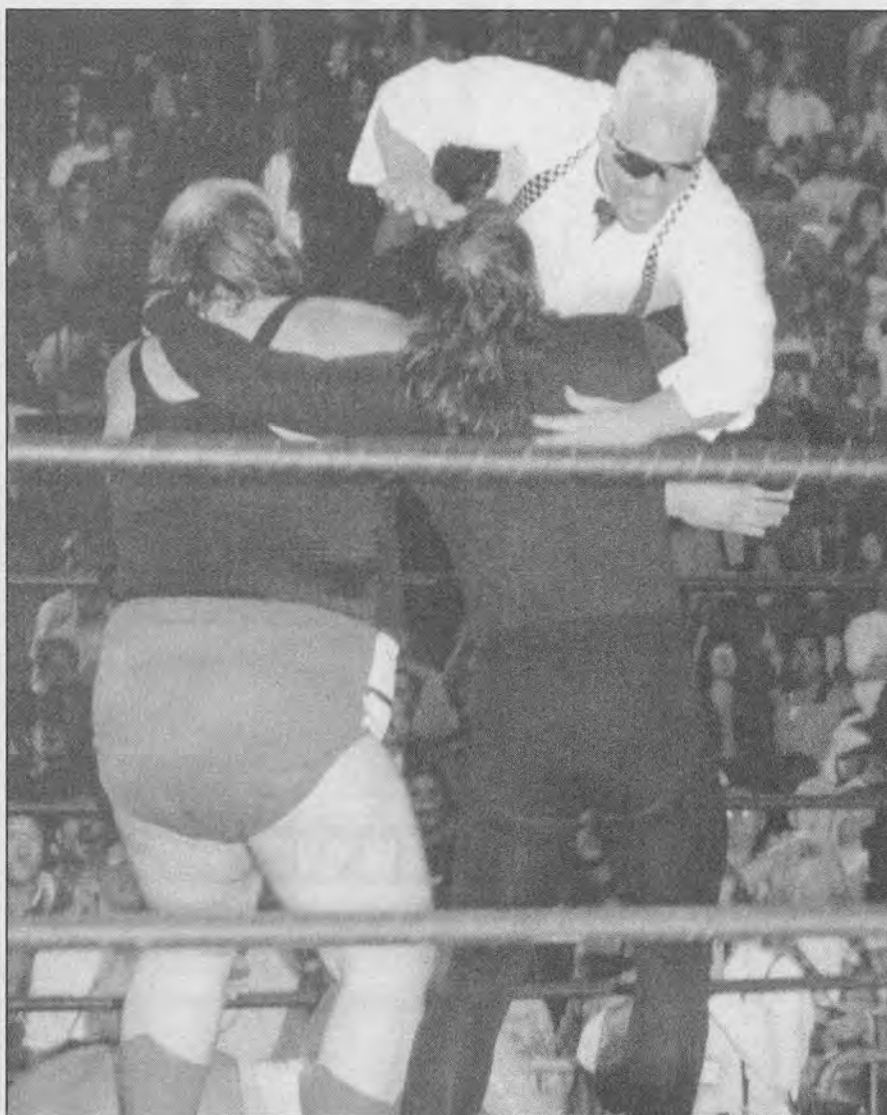
- 1) Sting
- 2) Steve Austin
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) Scott Steiner

**How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$100!\***



## press conference

(Continued from page 39)



Contrary to what a lot of people think, Hulk Hogan and Sting have helped *each other*. Sting came to the "Hulkster's" rescue at Halloween Havoc (above), and Hogan rescued Sting from Avalanche at Starrcade (right).

**BERNUCCA:** How important is respect in wrestling?

**STING:** It's everything, Chris. Besides the obvious intimidation factor it carries in the ring, it is the only thing in wrestling that is entirely earned. Guys even get handed titles every once in a while—Steve Austin at Fall Brawl, for example—but they don't get handed respect. And Hacksaw Duggan did something about that



real quick.

**LENKER:** You don't sound like you're too broken up over what happened with Austin and Duggan.

**STING:** It was wrong, Dave, just wrong. Austin should not have been handed the title, and, to be honest, Duggan probably didn't earn the title shot. He just strolled

in and won the title. I respect Nick Bockwinkel, but he should have done something about that. I like Hacksaw, and I don't care for Steve Austin, but that was handled badly.

**ELLNER:** Meaning what?

**BERNUCCA** (to waitress): You wouldn't have a couple aspirin, would you?

**STING:** Meaning that some of the new arrivals in WCW have pushed guys like me—and other guys who have been around WCW for a while—further away from title shots without sharpening their teeth on top contenders, the way it's supposed to be done. Sometimes I wonder who is running the federation.

**BERNUCCA:** Do you think

Hogan's influence is too strong?

**ELLNER:** Of course it is! The man is out of control.

**STING:** Wrong again, Ellner. Hulk Hogan is very much in control. How do you think Duggan and Beefcake and Randy Savage ended up in WCW? Hey, I'm all for every wrestler getting as much as he can

out of the sport, because any match could be your last. But you can't allow these guys to hurdle ahead of people like me and Vader and Dustin Rhodes just because they are friends of Hogan.

**LENKER:** Are you bitter about that?

**STING:** No, I'm not. Hogan's a great friend of mine, too. He and I have had lunch in this place dozens of times, and there is no animosity between us. He got offered a sweetheart deal to come to WCW, and he would have been an idiot not to take it. He also opened doors for me that I had trouble opening myself.

**BERNUCCA:** Again, like television?

**STING:** Exactly. Forget about what I got paid for appearing on his show. You can't put a price on that kind of visibility. In the last few months, I've gotten calls from everyone from producers to stunt coordinators, asking me to do everything from lifting a guy over my head to selling fast food.

**LENKER:** Is that enough for you right now? Someone in our office said you're the most unpopular popular wrestler in the world.

**STING (laughs):** That is a strange way of putting it. It has been a while since I wore a belt, and I intend on being a world champion again. But there are a few things in my way right now.

**ELLNER:** Like Hogan, for one. Please tell me you're going after him.

**STING:** Sorry to disappoint you, Ellner. Maybe the eggs will cheer you up. I have been loyal to Hogan since he arrived in WCW; that's not going to change.

**LENKER:** Even though he's been less than loyal to you? He used you as a friend until his entourage showed up. What do you owe him?

**STING:** I owe him a lot. He called me before he signed the deal. He said he would make it worth my while to stick close to him while he got acclimated to a



Sting has assisted Hogan against the Three Faces of Fear, and has helped him defeat the Faces' ringleader, Kevin Sullivan. That doesn't mean he doesn't resent the fact that Hogan's friends seem to get preferential treatment in WCW.

new federation. There's a lot of resentment toward Hulk Hogan in this sport, but none of it comes from me. And there are other ways to get to the title.

**BERNUCCA:** Name one.

**STING:** Chris, I'm surprised at you. I read your stories. I know what you think of Vader and what he will do to Hogan. I don't agree with it, and I'm not rooting for it to happen. But if it did, wouldn't it

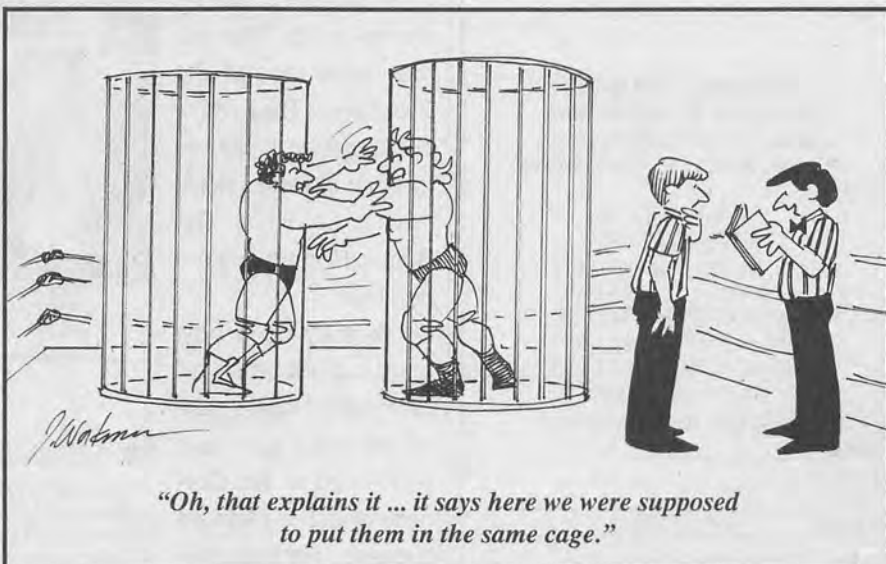
clear a path for me?

**ELLNER:** Yeah, it would, if you can take care of Avalanche.

**LENKER:** Give me a break, Eddie.

**STING:** Yeah, Eddie, give me a break. Avalanche is tough, but he's nothing I haven't been able to handle before. You let me worry about Avalanche, Eddie. Let's eat. Maybe with food in your mouth, you'll stop talking.

**LENKER:** Doubtful. □





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## win, lose, or draw

(Continued from page 12)

Interviewed by Gene Okerlund after he left the ring, Rogers ripped off his Guardian Angels T-shirt and announced he was "going back to my roots," becoming Big Bubba Rogers again. With a maniacal grin on his face, Rogers accompanied Avalanche back to the locker room.

I'll say this for Rogers: He had at least one good reason to be upset. Bockwinkel and Patrick undermined his authority as a referee. They either should have let him officiate, or not named him in the first place.

As Rogers saw it, Avalanche wasn't ready to submit. Strange, considering a replay clearly showed the big man nodding his head, apparently saying yes. Looking back, it might appear that overruling Rogers was the right call, but it was actually a bad move.

Naturally, that doesn't justify Rogers' attacks on Patrick and Sting. That was just Rogers unleashing a year's worth of frustration. If it hadn't happened during that particular match, it would have happened soon afterward. The Angel was ready to trade in his wings. Rogers has let down a legion of loyal admirers, but he doesn't care. After all, they were fans of Big Bossman or The Boss or The Guardian Angel. He isn't any of those people anymore. He's Big Bubba Rogers. He's a new man.

He may be a new man, but will he be his own man? Rogers started out in the sport as a bodyguard to Jim Cornette and The Midnight Express. He captured

the UWF title in 1987. His manager at the time was Gen. Skandor Akbar.

In those days, Rogers was mean, but he wasn't very independent. He now talks about breaking free of people's expectations, but his history indicates he'd be willing to let someone like Race make decisions for him.

Never mind that, his supporters say. The important thing is that he is Big Bubba Rogers once more, and WCW better take notice.

Indeed, Rogers is a fine wrestler. He's powerful and skillful and easily could become a contender for any WCW title, including the World belt. He and Avalanche would make a fearsome tag team combination. There is little doubt that Rogers will be a major player in WCW in 1995.

But although he made his debut as a bodyguard, he made his reputation as a law enforcer. Whether he was Bossman or Guardian Angel, Rogers was a man who fought in the sport's best interests.

Now the crime-stopper is a crime-starter. That's sad. □



The Guardian Angel unleashed months of frustration when he shoved Sting at the Clash, where he again became Big Bubba Rogers. It could be that somewhere down the line, he'll recycle Angel persona.

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# Scouting report

**HOMETOWN:** San Antonio, TX

**HEIGHT:** 6'

**WEIGHT:** 234

**YEARS AS PRO:** 12

**RATING:** No. 5 ("PWI 500")

**STRENGTHS:**

- Never satisfied. Always working on new holds and modifying old ones.
- Adapts quickly. Can change strategy at a moment's notice during matches.
- Doesn't wear down. Average match time is among the highest of any active wrestler, but he keeps getting stronger.

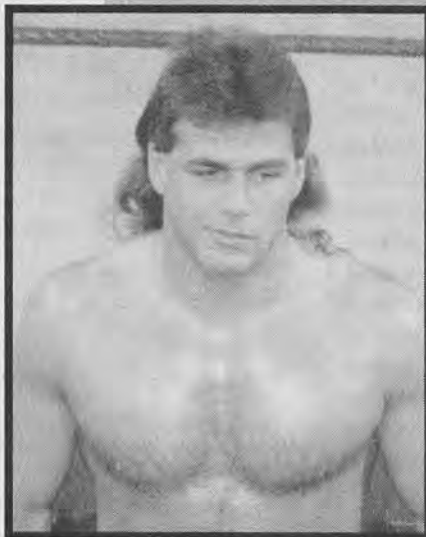
**WEAKNESSES:**

- Manipulative. Uses his "friends" to help him get ahead, but rarely reciprocates.
- Glass jaw. Hit him hard enough there and he won't recover.
- Arrogance. Loves to strut when opponents are down, but it allows them time to rest.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** Two-time former Intercontinental champion also held the tag WWF World team title with Diesel for three months in 1994 ... Formed The Midnight Rockers with Marty Jannetty in the AWA in the mid-1980s, and they twice won the AWA World tag team belts ... Hosts "Heartbreak Hotel" segments on WWF telecasts and frequently does color commentary on *Monday Night Raw* ... Lost thrilling ladder match to Razor Ramon at WrestleMania X.

**OUTLOOK FOR 1995:** Looks extremely bright. If he doesn't win the WWF World title from Diesel at WrestleMania XI, there's a good chance he'll do it sometime shortly after that event. Even though he has wrestled infrequently in recent months, Michaels is considered by many to be the most talented wrestler in the WWF. He is often compared in terms of both ability and attitude to Ric Flair; he is good enough to beat anyone in the world.

## SHAWN MICHAELS



## DAVE SULLIVAN



**HOMETOWN:** Boston, MA

**HEIGHT:** 6'3"

**WEIGHT:** 283

**YEARS PRO:** 4

**RATING:** No. 275 ("PWI 500")

**STRENGTHS:**

- Circle of friends. Has added enthusiasm thanks to time spent with Hulk Hogan and company.
- Leg strength. Becomes important when he tries to break out of painful holds.
- Relentless. Won't let foes escape once he has a hold locked on.

**WEAKNESSES:**

- Childlike. Is willing to trust almost anyone and often pays for it.
- Awkward. Doesn't know how to use his weight.
- Too nice. Isn't aggressive enough, even when he gets very angry.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** After a brief and very unmemorable stint as the rule-breaking Equalizer in WCW, Dave shocked everyone in 1993 when he revealed that he was Kevin Sullivan's

younger brother ... They briefly teamed before Dave suffered a serious knee injury at the hands of The Nasty Boys ... Now bills himself as the world's number-one "Hulkamania" and has feuded with his brother ... Had some success in the past in Oregon and in Japan.

**OUTLOOK FOR 1995:** Sullivan has become a favorite of a lot of WCW fans because of his undying loyalty to Hulk Hogan, and he has learned some of the "Hulkster's" signature moves. Still, it's obvious that he has a long way to go before he will be considered a serious title contender. If he can get himself in a little better physical condition and wrestle smarter, he *might* be able to make a run at the TV title. He is probably destined to never rise above mid-card status.

**HOMETOWN:** Leeds, England  
**HEIGHT:** 5'9"  
**WEIGHT:** 245  
**YEARS PRO:** 16  
**RATING:** No. 184 ("PWI 500")  
**STRENGTHS:**

- Awesome upper body. Doesn't pay to try to overpower him.
- Powerslam. Basic move is his deadly finisher.
- U.K. explosion. Almost impossible to beat in England, where the sport's popularity continues to grow.

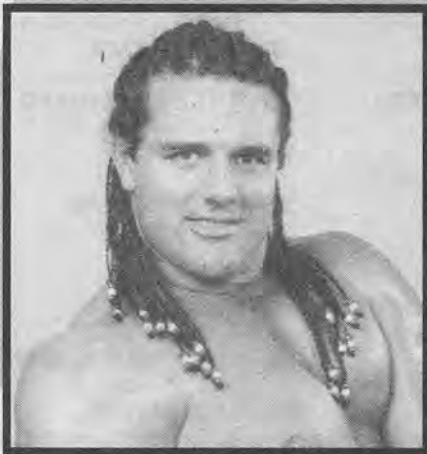
**WEAKNESSES:**

- Inflexible. Muscle mass impedes range of motion.
- Career focus. Would rather help Bret than win titles.
- Chronic injuries. Still feels lingering effects of back problems.

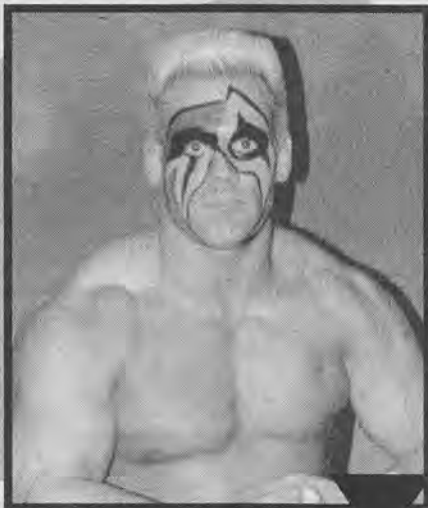
**OTHER COMMENTS:** Former WWF Intercontinental champion returned to the federation in the summer of 1994 ... Brother-in-law of Bret and Owen Hart has sided with "The Hitman" in that feud ... Was a regular teammate of Sting for a while in 1993, and fared well against Big Van Vader ... Smith and Dynamite Kid (The British Bulldogs) won the WWF World tag team title in 1986 under the guidance of Capt. Lou Albano ... Last man eliminated in 1995 Royal Rumble.

**OUTLOOK FOR 1995:** Though he is probably a few years past his prime, Davey Boy Smith is still one of the top wrestlers in the WWF. He hasn't really set goals for himself since he came back to the WWF. He helped Bret Hart even the odds in his feud against his brother Owen and Jim Neidhart, but hasn't gone after any title in earnest. He certainly has the ability to win another I-C title and must also be considered a World title contender.

## DAVEY BOY SMITH



## STING



**HOMETOWN:** Venice Beach, CA  
**HEIGHT:** 6'2"  
**WEIGHT:** 260  
**YEARS PRO:** 9  
**RATING:** No. 8 ("PWI 500")  
**STRENGTHS:**

- Conditioning. Is in the best shape of his career.
- Youth. Just reaching physical peak, but already as experienced as almost anyone.
- Rage. Once infuriated, can channel his energies to victory almost every time.

**WEAKNESSES:**

- Too laid-back. Doesn't care that Hogan has taken over as top WCW fan favorite.
- Stale repertoire. Is simply too good to be relying on the same moves as used throughout career.
- Lack of versatility. What has happened to his aerial arsenal?

**OTHER COMMENTS:** Three-time former NWA/WCW World champion dominated a feud with Avalanche in 1994-95 ... Won first world title by beating Ric Flair in 1990 ... Briefly a member of The Four Horsemen ... Guest-starred on *Thunder In Paradise*, Hulk Hogan's syndicated action-adventure series, now one of the "Hulkster's" closest allies ... Lost to 51-year-old Antonio Inoki in Tokyo this January ... Voted Most Popular Wrestler of the year for 1994 by PWI readers.

**OUTLOOK FOR 1995:** Sting may be a good friend of Hulk Hogan, but he would probably be better off professionally if the "Hulkster" lost the WWF World title. Since Hogan came to WCW, the "Stinger" has been shut out of the World title picture. He could pursue the U.S. or TV titles, but considering what he has accomplished in the past, he would probably settle for nothing less than another world title. Some suggest that he should turn rulebreaker, but that, too, is unlikely since Sting takes pride in being a great role model.

**HOMETOWN:** Lima, OH  
**HEIGHT:** 6'1"  
**WEIGHT:** 223  
**YEARS PRO:** 13  
**RATING:** No. 112 ("PWI 500")  
**STRENGTHS:**

- Suplex master. Has at least a dozen versions of the move.
- Dropkick. Executes it with the proper precision, force, and snap.
- Youthful enthusiasm. Veteran still loves to impress fans.

**WEAKNESSES:**

- Wasted time. Spent too many years toiling in obscurity.
- Win-loss record. Insists on wrestling only the best and mediocre record is deceiving to promoters who don't know how good he is.
- Travel burnout. Wrestles in too many cities on too many consecutive nights.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** Thirteen-year veteran is finally starting to get the recognition many people say he has deserved for years ... One of the few men to beat Sabu cleanly; they have had many memorable matches ... Regular competitor in Midwest Territorial Wrestling ... A black belt in karate, Snow owns a gym in his hometown ... Trained Dan Severn, who finished second in Ultimate Fighting Championship IV in December ... Trained by Gene Anderson and Big Jim Lancaster.

**OUTLOOK FOR 1995:** Now that he is a fixture in ECW, Snow figures to get noticed by a lot more people. Could he win a title in such a wild, violent federation? Absolutely! He is a terrific all-around wrestler who is capable of beating heavyweight champion Shane Douglas and anyone else in ECW. With his martial arts skills and aerial ability, he could be a future star in either WCW or the WWF.

## AL SNOW





# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED®

## TOP 10

- 1 DIESEL**  
356, Las Vegas, NV  
(1) WWF World champion
- 2 BIG VAN VADER**  
450, Denver, CO  
(4) U.S. heavyweight champion
- 3 JEFF JARRETT**  
230, Nashville, TN  
(-) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 4 HULK HOGAN**  
275, Venice Beach, CA  
(5) WCW World champion
- 5 RAZOR RAMON**  
287, Miami, FL  
(3) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
- 6 STING**  
260, Venice Beach, CA  
(2) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
- 7 SHAWN MICHAELS**  
234, San Antonio, TX  
(-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
- 8 JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN  
(-) USWA heavyweight champion
- 9 BRET HART**  
234, Calgary, Alberta  
(-) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
- 10 ARN ANDERSON**  
249, Minneapolis, MN  
(-) WCW TV champion

## PWI's Top 10



Jerry Lawler

## TAG TEAMS

- 1 HARLEM HEAT**  
Combined weight: 550 pounds  
(1) WCW World tag team champions
- 2 THE SMOKIN' GUNNS**  
Combined weight: 465 pounds  
(-) WWF World tag team champions
- 3 THE NASTY BOYS**  
Combined weight: 585 pounds  
(2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 4 MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT**  
Combined weight: 491 pounds  
(8) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 5 THE HEAVENLY BODIES**  
Combined weight: 450 pounds  
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 6 PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA**  
Combined weight: 488 pounds  
(-) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 7 ELI & JACOB BLU**  
Combined weight: 517 pounds  
(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 8 THE HEADSHRINKERS**  
Combined weight: 520 pounds  
(10) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 9 DOUG GILBERT & TOMMY RICH**  
Combined weight: 489 pounds  
(-) USWA tag team champions
- 10 SABU & TASMANIAC**  
Combined weight: 441 pounds  
(-) ECW tag team champions

## WCW

### World Champion: HULK HOGAN

- (C) 275, Venice Beach, CA
- 1—BIG VAN VADER**  
(1) 450, Denver, CO
  - 2—STING**  
(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA
  - 3—ARN ANDERSON**  
(-) 249, Minneapolis, MN
  - 4—JOHNNY B. BADD**  
(2) 235, Macon, GA
  - 5—AVALANCHE**  
(4) 502, Montreal, Quebec
  - 6—ALEX WRIGHT**  
(-) 222, Berlin, Germany
  - 7—DUSTIN RHODES**  
(7) 254, Austin, TX
  - 8—HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
(6) 280, Glens Falls, NY
  - 9—STEVE REGAL**  
(8) 247, Blackpool, England
  - 10—RANDY SAVAGE**  
(-) 237, Sarasota, FL

## WWF

### World Champion: DIESEL

- (C) 356, Las Vegas, NV
- 1—JEFF JARRETT**  
(2) 230, Nashville, TN
  - 2—RAZOR RAMON**  
(1) 287, Miami, FL
  - 3—SHAWN MICHAELS**  
(-) 234, San Antonio, TX
  - 4—BRET HART**  
(-) 234, Calgary, Alberta
  - 5—LEX LUGER**  
(6) 265, Chicago, IL
  - 6—OWEN HART**  
(10) 227, Calgary, Alberta
  - 7—DAVEY BOY SMITH**  
(4) 245, Leeds, England
  - 8—KING KONG BUNDY**  
(9) 446, Atlantic City, NJ
  - 9—TATANKA**  
(8) 250, Pembroke, NC
  - 10—HAKUSHI**  
(7) 231, Tokyo, Japan

## USWA

### USWA Champion: JERRY LAWLER

- (C) 234, Memphis, TN
- 1—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**  
(2) 230, Memphis, TN
  - 2—SID VICIOUS**  
(C) 318, West Memphis, AR
  - 3—SPELLBINDER**  
(4) 246, parts unknown
  - 4—BIG DADDY CYRUS**  
(-) 359, Memphis, TN
  - 5—BILL DUNDEE**  
(5) 219, Melbourne, Australia
  - 6—DOUG GILBERT**  
(6) 241, Lexington, TN
  - 7—SCOTT STUDD**  
(-) 224, Atlanta, GA
  - 8—GORGEOUS GEORGE III**  
(-) 221, Charlotte, NC
  - 9—TOMMY RICH**  
(1) 248, Hendersonville, TN
  - 10—REGGIE B. FINE**  
(9) 215, Memphis, TN

## ECW

### ECW Champion: SHANE DOUGLAS

- (C) 223, Pittsburgh, PA
- 1—SABU**  
(2) 220, Bombay
  - 2—CHRIS BENOIT**  
(10) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
  - 3—CACTUS JACK**  
(7) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
  - 4—TULLY BLANCHARD**  
(-) 235, Charlotte, NC
  - 5—AL SNOW**  
(8) 232, Lima, OH
  - 6—THE SANDMAN**  
(9) 244, Philadelphia, PA
  - 7—911**  
(3) 310, parts unknown
  - 8—TASMANIAC**  
(4) 221, Tasmania
  - 9—MIKEY WHIPWRECK**  
(-) 187, New York, NY
  - 10—HACK MYERS**  
(-) 250, Baltimore, MD

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

## MOST POPULAR

- 1 STING**  
260, Venice Beach, CA  
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 RAZOR RAMON**  
287, Miami, FL  
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- 3 RANDY SAVAGE**  
237, Sarasota, FL  
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
- 4 HULK HOGAN**  
275, Venice Beach, CA  
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 5 BRET HART**  
234, Calgary, Alberta  
Last issue: unrated
- 6 DIESEL**  
356, Las Vegas, NV  
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
- 7 THE UNDERTAKER**  
328, parts unknown  
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
- 8 LEX LUGER**  
265, Chicago, IL  
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular
- 9 DAVEY BOY SMITH**  
245, Leeds, England  
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
- 10 JOHNNY B. BADD**  
235, Macon, GA  
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

## MOST HATED

- 1 BIG VAN VADER**  
450, Denver, CO  
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2 SHAWN MICHAELS**  
234, San Antonio, TX  
Last issue: unrated
- 3 OWEN HART**  
227, Calgary, Alberta  
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
- 4 BOB BACKLUND**  
234, Princeton, MN  
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- 5 JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN  
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated
- 6 JEFF JARRETT**  
230, Nashville, TN  
Last issue: unrated
- 7 KING KONG BUNDY**  
446, Atlantic City, NJ  
Last issue: unrated
- 8 TATANKA**  
250, Pembroke, NC  
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated
- 9 IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**  
248, Syracuse, NY  
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated
- 10 SID VICIOUS**  
318, West Memphis, AR  
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

## For period ended February 16, 1995

### CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

### SINGLES

- 1—HULK HOGAN.....75 points**
- 2—BRET HART.....70 points**
- 3—RAZOR RAMON.....65 points**
- 4—STING.....51 points**
- 5—DIESEL.....50 points**

### TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE NASTY BOYS.....69 points**
- 2—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT.....66 points**
- 3—PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA.....55 points**
- 4—THE HEADSHRINKERS.....51 points**
- 5—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS.....44 points**

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN

**Smoky Mountain Champion:**

- JERRY LAWLER**  
(C) 234, Memphis, TN
- 1—BUDDY LANDELL**  
(1) 236, Los Angeles, CA
  - 2—TONY ANTHONY**  
(C) 235, Bucksport, TN
  - 3—BOO BRADLEY**  
(5) 310, parts unknown
  - 4—CHRIS CANDIDO**  
(4) 226, Carteret, NJ
  - 5—AL SNOW**  
(-) 232, Lima, OH
  - 6—ROBERT GIBSON**  
(9) 225, Pensacola, FL
  - 7—UNIBOMB**  
(-) 345, parts unknown
  - 8—RICK MORTON**  
(7) 228, Memphis, TN
  - 9—TRACEY SMOTHERS**  
(3) 227, Atlanta, GA
  - 10—SCOTT ARMSTRONG**  
(-) 212, Marietta, GA

## INTERNATIONAL

**Triple Crown Champion:**

- TOSHIKI KAWADA**  
(C) 245, Tizhigi, Japan
- 1—STEVE WILLIAMS**  
(1) 265, Norman, OK
  - 2—MITSU HARU MISAWA**  
(2) 247, Saitama, Japan
  - 3—SHINYA HASHIMOTO**  
(3) 287, Gisu, Japan
  - 4—BIG VAN VADER**  
(4) 450, Denver, CO
  - 5—KENTA KOBASHI**  
(5) 261, Tokyo, Japan
  - 6—NOBUHIKO TAKADA**  
(7) 231, Yokohama, Japan
  - 7—STAN HANSEN**  
(6) 322, Borger, TX
  - 8—CHRIS BENOIT**  
(8) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
  - 9—PERRO AGUAYO**  
(9) 215, Zacatecas, Mexico
  - 10—GARY ALBRIGHT**  
(10) 340, Billings, MT

**AAA: AAA Champion**—Perro Aguayo; 1—Konnar; 2—Octagon; 3—El Hijo Del Santo; 4—La Parka; 5—Eddy Guerrero; 6—Rey Mysterio Jr.; 7—Cien Caras; 8—Pscosis; 9—Miguel Perez Jr.; 10—Blue Panther.

**ACW: ACW Champion**—T. Rantula; 1—Shane Douglas; 2—Tito Santana; 3—Rick Martel; 4—Cactus Jack; 5—Ron Simmons; 6—2 Cold Scorpio;

7—Tasmaniac; 8—Glenn Osbourne; 9—Tommy Dreamer; 10—Scotty Flamingo.  
**IWCCW: IWCCW Champion**—Tito Santana; 1—Greg Valentine; 2—Rick Martel; 3—Jim Powers; 4—Jimmy Snuka; 5—Cousin Luke; 6—The Funny Clown;

7—Tony Atlas; 8—Vic Steamboat; 9—Metal Maniac; 10—Gino Coruso.  
**MTW: MTW Champion**—Bruiser Bedlam; 1—Al Snow; 2—Johnny Paradise;

3—Chris Carter; 4—Machine Gun Kelly; 5—Sean Casey; 6—J.T. Lightning; 7—Rock Stevens; 8—Bobo Brazil Jr.; 9—Denny Kass; 10—Scott Summers.  
**PWA: PWA Champion**—The Hater; 1—Charlie Norris; 2—Jerry Lynn; 3—Randy

Gusto; 4—Jesse Hennig; 5—Horace the Lunatic; 6—Punisher; 7—Blake Beverly; 8—Dan Jessor; 9—Tommy Ferrara; 10—Hawk.

**PWF: PWF Champion**—Italian Stallion; 1—Russian Assassin II; 2—Austin Steele; 3—Flaming Youth; 4—Terry Austin; 5—Black Scorpion; 6—Star Ryder;

7—Tyrone Knox; 8—Troy Conyers; 9—Chris Hamrick; 10—Cruel Connection II.  
**WWA: WWA Champion**—Nikolai Volkoff; 1—Frank Finnegan; 2—Gus the Greek; 3—Akita Kaos; 4—Ed Atlas; 5—Jim McPherson; 6—Paul White; 7—East L.A.; 8—John Rotten; 9—Jason Headings; 10—Scott The Body.

**WWWA: WWWA Champion**—Glenn Osbourne; 1—Jack Hammer; 2—Super Nova; 3—Harley Lewis; 4—Derrick Domino; 5—Ace Darling; 6—Bobby Piper; 7—Jimmy Snuka; 8—Chief Dancing Wolf; 9—Mr. Motion; 10—Metal Maniac.



# RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 19 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

*The good go bad?* Is the pressure getting to **Diesel** and **Bret Hart**? The way they wrestled each other at the Royal Rumble was frightening to a lot of observers. Both men attempted to use chairs on each other and basically fought dirty throughout the entire match.

Bret set the tone early by refusing to shake Diesel's hand at the outset of the bout. "The Hitman" was booed after he tied Diesel's legs up with tape and started kicking him mercilessly.

Of course, the match got more chaotic when **Shawn Michaels**, **Owen Hart**, **Bob Backlund**, **Jeff Jarrett**, and **The Roadie** interfered. Several of our readers wrote to us with their reactions.

*Bret spent months trying to convince and show us that he was a better man than his brother Owen, wrote Christina Renhurst of Tacoma, Washington. But now he's going all-out, even breaking*



Jeff Jarrett

*rules, in his quest for a third WWF World title. He also sneak-attacked Owen and Backlund before the Rumble. The WWF announcers are saying he has just become more aggressive. I think he has changed. He stooped to Owen's level. I like the old Bret Hart better!"*

We received a lot of similar letters from people who don't seem to like the new version of "The Hitman." We also got a few from fans who said that

judging from the way Diesel wrestled at the Rumble, he isn't the honorable World champion he professes to be.

While both Bret and Diesel still have legions of fans, it is clear that a growing number of people are worried that they may be leaning toward rulebreaking again. Neither will make our Most Hated list for this issue, but that could change soon. Stay tuned.

*And speaking of the Rumble ...* Two of the championship matches at that pay-per-view event had odd endings. The aforementioned Hart-Diesel clash featured all kinds of interference, but referee **Dave Hebner** only called for the bell and ruled the bout a draw after Owen, Michaels, and others interfered for a *second* time and caused complete chaos. Earlier, Hebner watched as Michaels broke up Diesel's attempted pin of Hart; he insisted the

match continue. When Owen blatantly prevented his brother from putting "Big Daddy Cool" in his "sharpshooter" leglock, Hebner simply chased him from the ring and let the match continue again.

Referee **Tim White** restarted the Intercontinental title match between **Razor Ramon** and **Jeff Jarrett** after Jarrett called the injured "Bad Guy" back to the ring. That outraged a lot of people (see "What's Happening" on page 6).

Are you in favor of such liberal interpretations of rules, or do you think any kind of interference should result in the match being stopped? Is it fair to champions to have to defend their titles under such bizarre circumstances? Ramon can certainly make a case that he never should have lost the belt, and Diesel would have had reason to complain had he lost the belt following Michaels' blatant interference. What do you think?

*And just when things were looking bleak ...* We have used this column many times recently to lament the lack of good, consistent tag teams in North America. Just look at how bad things are in the WWF. Two makeshift teams, **Bam Bam Bigelow** and **Tatanka** and **Bob Holly** and **The Kid**, made it all the way to the finals of a tournament to determine new World champions.



Razor Ramon

And only 24 hours after they won the belts at the Rumble, Holly and Kid lost them to **The Smokin' Gunns**, a team often described as mediocre at best.

Well, things might be looking up, at least in WCW. **Rick** and **Scott Steiner**, as you probably read on page 35, are on the verge of signing with WCW. According to reliable sources, there was a very good chance they would wrestling in WCW by spring. **The Road Warriors** might not be far behind. **Hawk**

seconded **Animal** for a match in Japan, and there were rumors that they might start negotiating with U.S. promotions soon. We hope they do!

*That's all for this month!* If you have any questions or comments regarding our ratings or this column, please feel free to drop us a line. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

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Snuka vs. Dreamer, Sabu vs. Shane (Brawl) Taz and Sullivan brawl with Bruise Brothers, Sabu vs. Pat Tanaka, Taz and Sullivan vs. Bruise Brothers (Title Change), Sabu vs. Tazmaniac, Douglas & Public Enemy vs. Funk & Crash & Sullivan Plus Pitbull, Cairo, Hawk, Snuka, Mike Awesome, Bad Breed, Sandman and more PLUS tons of other matches and interviews.

**ECW TV TAPE #3 • Features 6 hours of action**  
Tanaka vs. Douglas, Taz vs. JT, Sandman vs. Cairo, Public Enemy vs. Bruise Brothers (Falls count anywhere WILD!!!) Sabu vs. Mike Awesome, Sandman vs. Dreamer, Sabu vs. Terry Funk, Bobby Eaton & Aim Anderson come in!!!! Taz & Sullivan vs. Snuka & Powers PLUS Paul E. Douglas, Pitbull, Hawk, 911, Peaches, Public Enemy, Bruise Brothers and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #4 • Features 6 hours of action**  
Sandman vs. Cairo, Bruise Brothers vs. Public Enemy (Lumberjack match) Funk & Am vs. Sabu & Eaton, Pitbull vs. Mikey, JT & Bruise Brothers & Dreamer vs. Douglas & Hughes & Public Enemy, Taz vs. Sandman PLUS Too Cold Scorpio, Cactus Jack, Sullivan, Jason and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #5 • Features 6 hours of action**  
Sabu vs. Too Cold Scorpio, Cairo vs. Sandman (Falls count anywhere) Funk vs. Public Enemy, Pitbull vs. Jason, Cactus vs. Sabu Clips, Douglas & Hughes vs. Bruise Brothers (Cage match), 911 vs. Cairo, Dreamer vs. Douglas (Bloody), Taz vs. Jimmy Snuka, Public Enemy & Hawk vs. Dreamer & Funks Plus Woman, Cactus Jack, Paul E. Peaches, Mikey, and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #6 • Features 4 hours of action**  
911 & Mr. Hughes stare down, Sandman canes Dreamer, Snuka & Pitbulls vs. Funks & Dreamer, Barbed wire clips Funks vs. Public Enemy, Cactus Jack vs. Terry Funk clips, Jason vs. Mikey (Title change), Taz & Snuka vs. Pitbulls PLUS Chad Austin, Sabu, Paul E. Sandman, Dreamer, and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #7 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Sandman vs. Dreamer, Scorpio vs. Sabu clips, 911 vs. Evil Clown, Sandman vs. Dreamer (Canning match • bloody), Douglas vs. Dean Malenko, Douglas vs. Scorpio from tournament, Chris Benoit vs. Scorpio clips, Cactus Jack & Mikey vs. Public Enemy (Title change) Douglas vs. Nishimura PLUS 911, Scorpio, Taz, Woman, Odessey, and tons of other matches including all the stars of ECW.

**ECW TV TAPE #8 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Chris Benoit vs. Nishimura, Shane Douglas video, Sandman eye injury, Dreamer vs. Sandman (I quit match) bloody, Cactus Jack vs. Sabu WILD!!!, Jason vs. Mikey PLUS Public Enemy, Woman, Scorpio, Benoit, Paul E. Cactus, Taz, Malenko and all the stars of ECW.

**ECW TV TAPE #9 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Chris Benoit vs. Tazmaniac, Public Enemy vs. Bad Breed (bat match blood bath), Dreamer vs. Cairo (wild brawl all over arena BLOODY), Sandman Press Conference, Douglas vs. Ron Simmons, Cactus Jack & Mikey vs. Public Enemy (bat match title change) Sabu vs. Chris Benoit, Sabu almost breaks his neck PLUS Scorpio, Woman, Sandman, Paul E. Dreamer, and all the stars of ECW.

**ECW TV TAPE #10 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Brian Pillman & Douglas vs. Scorpio & Simmons, Dean Malenko vs. Scorpio (title change), Jason vs. Scorpio, Sabu & Taz vs. Malenko & Public Enemy interfere, Cactus Jack vs. Kevin Sullivan WILD!!!, Sandman vs. Dreamer (blood bath) PLUS Douglas, JT Smith, Sabu, Public Enemy, and all the stars of ECW.

## SMW • Smoky Mountain Wrestling

**SMW TV #1 JAN 1994 • 5 HOURS**  
Bob Armstrong vs. Dick Murdoch • Bodies vs. Fumas Brothers, DWB vs. Brian Lee, Smothers vs. Candito, Bodies attack Paul Morton, DWB vs. Killer Kyle, Candito vs. Spicolli PLUS The Moon Dogs, Jim Cornette, Terry Funk, Smothers, Tammy Fytch and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #2 FEB 1994 Features 4 Hours**  
Terry Funk vs. Bullet, DWB vs. Brian Lee (chain match), R & RX vs. Heavenly Bodies, Bodies & Killer Dyle vs. R & RX & Bobby Blaze Bloody, Press Conference with Thrill Seekers PLUS Moon Dogs, Doug Fumas, Candito, Tammy Fytch, Jim Cornette, Dutch Mantel, Bruise Brothers, Well Dunn and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #3 MARCH 1994 Features 4 Hours**  
DWS vs. Hornet, Tom Prichard vs. Tracey Smothers, R & RX vs. Well Dunn, Jim Cornette vs. Armstrong, R & R vs. Bodies (looser leaves town), Smothers vs. Bedlam, Morton vs. Brian Lee, Well Dunn vs. Thrill Seekers PLUS Blaze, DWB, Thrill Seekers, Jake Roberts, Well Dunn, Tammy, Van Horn, and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #4 APRIL 1994 Features over 4 Hours**  
R & RX gets jumped by Lee & Candito, Lee & Candito vs. R & RX, Bruiser Bedlam & Jim Cornette vs. Armstrong, R & RX vs. Bodies (looser leaves town), Smothers vs. Bedlam, Morton vs. Brian Lee, Well Dunn vs. Thrill Seekers PLUS Blaze, DWB, Thrill Seekers, Jake Roberts, Well Dunn, Tammy, Van Horn, and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #5 MAY 1994 Features over 4 Hours**  
Bruiser Bedlam vs. Smothers (bloody), Lee & Candito, Lee & Candito vs. R & RX title change, Candito vs. Ricky Morton, Jake Roberts jumps DWB, Thrill Seekers vs. Well Dunn, Jake Roberts vs. DWB (title change), Randy Savage vs. Bedlam, Candito vs. Morton everyone comes in PLUS Armstrong, Tammy, Candito, R & RX & Bedlam, Dory Funk and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #6 JUNE 1994 Features...**  
Blaze & Fumas vs. Lee & Candito, Smothers vs. Ninja, Well Dunn vs. Seekers, R & RX surprise Tammy with Bambi, DWB vs. Ninja (Jake Roberts interferes), Jake & DWB brawl, Smothers gets attacked by DWB PLUS Armstrongs, Candito, Lee, Cornette, R & RX, Thrill Seekers and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #7 JULY 1994 Features...**  
Smothers vs. Killer Kyle, Jake, DDTs, Bambi and DWB saves her, R & RX and Bambi vs. Lee and Candito & Tammy, Funks vs. Armstrongs, Bodies jump Thrill Seekers in parking lot, Smothers vs. Brian Lee, Gangstas debut PLUS Terry Gordy, Thrill Seekers, Bodies, Cornette and all the other stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #8 AUGUST 1994 Features...**  
Lee & Candito vs. Armstrongs, Slater & Orton vs. Stomper & R. Garvin, Bodies vs. Thrill Seekers-Bloodiest match ever, R & RX vs. Lee & Candito (hairmatch), R & RX vs. Lee & Candito (title change) Lee turns on Candito, DWB vs. Killer Kyle, Candito vs. Lance Storm, R & RX vs. Bodies PLUS Gangstas, Bedlam, Chris Walker and all the other stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #9 SEPT 1994 Features...**  
Gangstas vs. R & RX (R&RX get injured), R & RX vs. Gangstas re-match) Parking lot brawl with R & RX & Gangstas, Lance Storm vs. Boo Bradley, Brian Lee & Lance Storm vs. Candito & Boo Bradley, Gangstas hang Ricky Morton, Bedlam & Killer Kyle vs. Smothers & Armstrong PLUS tons of other matches with all the SMW stars.

**SMW TV #10 OCT 1994 Features...**  
Boo Bradley vs. Lee, DWB & Bedlam Brawl, Ole Anderson and Bryant Anderson debut, Cactus Jack debut, Gangstas vs. R & RX, New Jack vs. Robert Gibson, Cactus Jack vs. Austin, Gangstas vs. R & RX barroom brawl, DWB vs. Bedlam (whipping match) Abby Video, Cactus & Boo Bradley Brawl, R & RX vs. Gangstas bloody brawl PLUS other matches with all the stars of SMW.

## SMW • Smoky Mountain Wrestling

**SMW TV #11 NOV 1994 Features...**  
Bryant Anderson and Smothers confrontation, Gangstas vs. Brian Lee & Lance Storm wild brawl, Cornette and Armstrong argue, Cactus Jack feud clips, Cornette & Bedlam training video, Jim Cornette asks Gangstas to let him manage them, but they turn him down, PLUS Candito, Boo Bradley, Smothers, Anderson and all the other stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #12 DEC 1994 Features...**  
Gangstas attack Armstrong, Anderson attacks Smothers, Cactus Jack vs. Candito, Gangstas vs. Armstrongs, Buddy Landel attacks DWB, Cactus Jack vs. Boo Bradley, Jim Cornette helps R & RX amazing!! DWB & Landel brawl, Lee vs. Landel title change, PLUS Jerry Lawler, Candito, Lee, Smothers, Anderson, Cactus, and all the other stars of SMW.

## USWA

**USWA TV #1—6 HOURS Features...**  
PG13 vs. Eliminators, Lawler & Christopher vs. Gilbert & Machine, Tommy Rich & Gilbert vs. Moon Dogs, Tommy Rich vs. Jerry Lawler & Gilbert & Rich vs. Lawler & Brian Christopher, Sid Vicious interludes GREAT!!! PLUS PG13, Koko B Ware, Master of Orient, Jef Gaylord, and all the stars of USWA.

**USWA TV #2—6 HOURS Features...**  
Tommy Rich vs. Lawler (barbed wire blood bath), Christopher and Moon Dogs vs. Gilbert & Rich & Machine, Spellbinder vs. Christopher, Sid Vicious jumps Gaylord, Doug Gilbert vs. Brian Christopher plus PG 13, Eliminators, Sid Vicious, Huber Reggie B Fine.

**USWA TV #3—6 HOURS Features...**  
Gilbert vs. Christopher (Car vs. title), Buddy Landel debut, Sid Vicious attacks Lawler, Landel turns on Christopher, Sid Vicious vs. Tanaka, Moon Dogs vs. Rich & Landel (blood bath), Lawler vs. Spellbinder, Moon Dogs get jumped by Rich & Landel, Lawler & Idol vs. Sid Vicious & Huber PLUS all the other stars of USWA.

**USWA TV #4—6 HOURS Features...**  
Rich & Landel attack Moon Dogs, Landel & Rich vs. PG13 parking lot brawl, Lawler vs. Sid Vicious, Landel vs. Christopher, Sid & Gilbert vs. Eliminators, Lawler & Christopher vs. Spellbinder & Fine, Christopher vs. Gilbert (Hair vs. Hair), Dark Patriot vs. Christopher, all the other stars of USWA.

**USWA TV #5—6 HOURS Features...**  
Sid Vicious & Gilbert vs. Lawler & Christopher, PG 13 & Miss Texas vs. Phantoms & Fantasia, Lawler vs. Gilbert, Rich vs. Lawler, bloody locker room brawl, Mable vs. Sid Vicious, Landel vs. Rich, Moon Dogs vs. Cadillac Brother PLUS Spellbinder, Landel, PG13, and all the other stars of USWA.

**USWA TV #6—6 HOURS Features...**  
Rich & Landel feud clips, Lawler & Christopher vs. Rich & Gilbert PLUS a bloody locker room brawl, Moon Dogs vs. Rich & Gilbert & Dowden vs. Lawler & Dundee & Christopher, Rich vs. Landel, Gaylord vs. Spellbinder, Bruise Brothers debut, Lawler & Dundee & Christopher vs. Rich & Gilbert & Machine, PLUS tons of other matches with all the USWA stars.

**USWA TV #7—6 HOURS Features...**  
Lawler & Sid brawl, Rich vs. Christopher, Dundee & Gilbert brawl, Rich & Christopher brawl, PG 13 & Dundee vs. Spellbinder & Gilbert & Rich, best of Memphis 10 man tag match PLUS tons of year in review matches with Funk, Sid Vicious, Lawler, Dundee, Rich, Landel and all of the other stars of USWA.

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# WRESTLING

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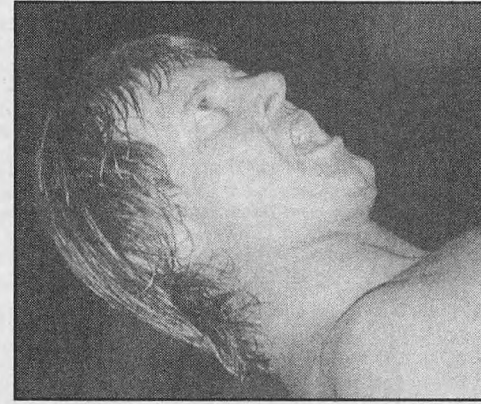
## RODDY PIPER SEEKS MATCH WITH MICHAELS "Rowdy Scot" Furious After Run-Ins With "Heartbreak Kid"

By DAVE ROSENBAUM

PALMETTO, FL—Diesel may not be the only man Shawn Michaels has to worry about; the "Heartbreak Kid," who won the Royal Rumble, made a new enemy a few days after that event when he got into a heated confrontation with Roddy Piper.

"Rowdy" Roddy came to the ring on crutches during a recent WWF TV taping to conduct an interview with Michaels. While Piper was addressing the crowd, Michaels came to the ring for the interview and shoved Piper. Michaels challenged Piper, but the stand-off ended before it got violent.

Piper and Michaels also reportedly got into a scuffle in the hallway outside the locker room at the Manatee Civic Center, but several wrestlers



Will we see a Roddy Piper-Shawn Michaels match in the WWF? "Rowdy" Roddy hopes so; the two have had several confrontations recently.

broke it up before too many punches were thrown on either side.

"The thing is, I got nothin' else to prove in the ring," Piper said in an "Enquirer" exclusive. "But Shawn Michaels has to go shootin' his mouth off about how he's some sort of god because he won the Royal Rumble. Never liked the guy. Anyone who shoots his mouth off around the 'Hot Rod' usually ends up payin' for it. And Shawn Michaels ain't as tough as he thinks!

Sources said he was seen talking to WWF President Jack Tunney several times in the days following that taping. He hasn't wrestled since June 1994, when he came out of retirement to beat Jerry Lawler at King of the Ring.

# Bodies' SMW Return Successful

By DAVE LENKER

KNOXVILLE, TN—The much-hyped return of The Heavenly Bodies to Smoky Mountain Wrestling turned out to be even more exciting than most people expected. They wrestled The Gangstas, the former SMW tag team champions, to a no-contest in one of the wildest matches of 1995.

Boards, chairs, tables, and other assorted foreign objects were used in the wild melee that spilled out of the ring, into the dressing room, out a back door, and, finally, into the parking lot of a hotel across the street.

"We didn't care if we won the damn match," said Tom Prichard. "Those two wimps have never taken a beating like we gave them. They'll get more if they keep trying to mess with Jim Cornette, too!"

The Bodies, who were reinstated by Commissioner Bob Armstrong after dropping a "loser-leaves-SMW" match to The Rock 'n' Roll Express last April, say they won't rule out pursuing a match with the Rock 'n' Rolls, the SMW tag champs, even though they, too, are managed on a part-time basis by Cornette.

## Badd Trying To Get Parker Banned

By BRANDI MANKIEWICZ

WINSTON-SALEM, NC—Johnny B. Badd is serious about regaining the WCW TV title. So serious, in fact, that he is putting pressure on WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel to ban Col. Robert Parker from appearing at ringside during the matches of Arn Anderson, the current champ.

"Anderson can't beat me without help," said Badd, who lost the TV belt to "The Enforcer" when Parker held his legs during the pin. "Parker has to save him every time. It happened again at the Clash! I've had enough!"

Badd has beaten Anderson in non-title matches, but that isn't enough for him. He sent a videotape to Bockwinkel's office documenting Parker's history of interference. "I just want one shot without Parker at ringside," Badd said. "If he beats me fair, I'll never ask for a title shot again!"

"I will consider the proposal," Bockwinkel said.

## AROUND THE GLOBE

### NANAIMO, BRITISH COLUMBIA

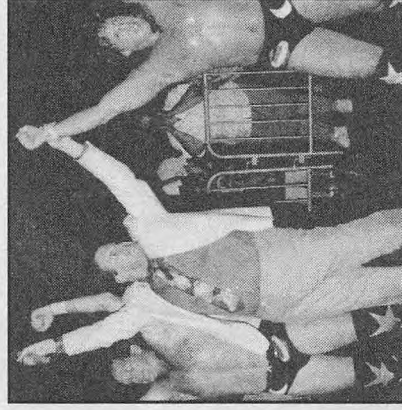
Looking for one of the dirtiest teams in the sport? Try The Serbian Liberated Army Movement. They thrashed The Magic Dragons in a wild match, but paid a price. En route to their win, they smashed tables, destroyed a concession stand, and beat up a ring announcer and promoter. They were suspended from competing in this town for 30 days.

### ISLA VERDE, PUERTO RICO

The wrestling world is mourning the death of Eddie Gilbert. "Hot Stuff" was found dead in his apartment by fellow WWC wrestler Ken Wayne less than 24 hours after he wrestled for the final time. Preliminary reports indicated that Gilbert may have suffered a heart attack, but a complete autopsy report was unavailable at press time. Gilbert was 33.

### JOLIETTE, QUEBEC

Things are heating up in Quebec—in Northern Championship Wrestling, to be specific. NCW Quebec champ Dream Killer recently won a "triangular" match involving him, Iceman, and Crazy Eddie. His next target, he says, will be Inner-City champ Black Bear, who beat Phil Belanger to capture his belt. "I'm the best in Canada!" boasts Dream Killer. "I will win *all* of NCW's titles!"



Jim Cornette has his Heavenly Bodies back in Smoky Mountain, where they are feuding with The Gangstas. They may seek a match with The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

## Bad Blood Boils Between Lawler And Christopher

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ

MEMPHIS, TN—The USWA's two top fan favorites, Jerry Lawler and Brian Christopher, are apparently on the verge of feuding. Christopher earned several shots at the heavyweight title in January and nearly won the belt from Sid Vicious; he thinks "The King" has had more than his share of title shots and should step aside and allow him to pursue the belt.

"Jerry has been great to me," said Christopher, "but I just think it's my time. He agreed a long time ago that he wouldn't get any more title shots at Vicious, but he's trying to find a way around the rules."

"Wrestling is a cutthroat sport," responded Lawler. "Everybody has to look out for himself. I'm a wrestler because I want to win titles. I don't care who I have to go through to win. Brian is a great kid, but he has to understand that you can't have too many friends when you're a wrestler."

According to one unconfirmed report, Lawler and Christopher have gotten into several loud arguments in the locker room recently.



# HOT SHOT



Female managers and valets take huge risks when they decide to get physically involved in the matches of their men. Some actually get assaulted by opposing wrestlers. Sherri probably would have preferred getting clotheslined by Hulk Hogan to getting her pretty face stuffed into the sweaty armpit of Nasty Boy Brian Knobs! Wouldn't you?!

Photo by John S. Pilthers



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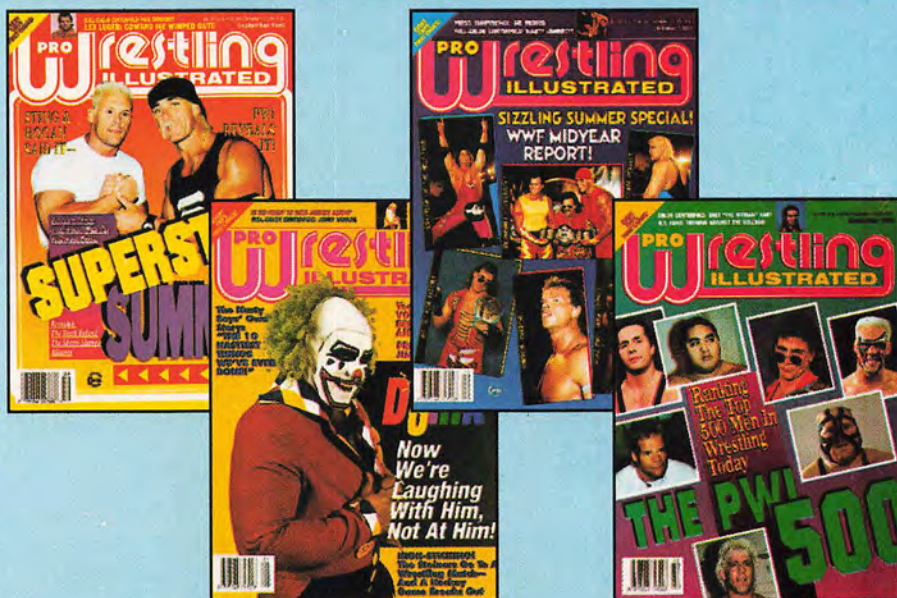
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